



## SPARKS

Tri-State Amateur Radio Society  
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

JANUARY 1985 Volume XXVI No. I



### OFFICERS:

Pres.: Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE  
V.P.: Carolyn Anderson, KA9LMO  
Sec.: Elvin Reed, WB9VSO  
Treas: Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

### DIRECTORS:

Blanche Elpers, KA9EIV  
Roy Cloukey, KA9IWP  
Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Charlie Finke, WB9NQD  
Mort Silverman, W9GJ  
Ralph Waldo, K9STX

### EDITOR:

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572



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\* TARS regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Diamond and \*  
\* Heidelberg Avenues at the RED CROSS building. \*  
\* Monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM \*  
\* The officers and directors meetings will be held on the third Thursday \*  
\* at 7:00 PM at the RED CROSS building. \*  
\* \*  
\* The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM local \*  
\* time on the W 9 O G repeater. 147.75-15 \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

TO:

Fav Gehres  
2232 East Powell  
Evansville  
47715

044

taps  
W9AIN

IL

If you have questions about

## BOB BENGERT WINS

The 1984 winner of the McCutchan Award is Bob Bengert (AK9G). Hal Wilson presented the Award to Bob at the TARS Christmas Party. Also honored through the award committee was the outgoing and incoming President, Jim Shoptaugh. Sneaky way to get all the loot Jim!

The McCutchan award was established in 1977 by local businessman and civic leader Ellis Carson (VP2KC) to honor his friend and Silent Key John E. McCutchan. John was an avid Amateur who gave freely of his time, knowledge and skills to teach many of the I.S.U.E./T.A.R.S. license classes. It was through one of these classes that he met Ellis Carson.

Ellis Carson became a Silent Key in the Spring of 1984 and will be missed by those of us who had the good fortune to know him. This Editor hopes that the McCutchan award can be continued in the future in memory of both John McCutchan and Ellis Carson.

Bob Bengert has been a busy teacher. He has quietly stayed in the background doing the vital and necessary task of teaching most of our Novice and Tech/General classes for the last few years. It takes a lot of time and effort to run a class and at times the only reward is from the appreciative student who christens you "ELMER".

The McCutchan Memorial Award is the most prestigious award a TARS member can receive but the 3 person nominating committee is independent of the local club. This years committee included Hal Wilson, permanent chairman; plus the two most recent recipients of the award; Elvin Reed (1982) and Blanche Elpers (1983).

In every club there are always the members who give more than their share of time and talents to the benefit of the organization. The McCutchan award was established to honor these very special people and to say a public thank you for all they accomplish.

Does anyone have an exact number of the people who became hams after graduating from the classes? I bet the number would be surprising. I know of one person (KA9LMO) who only became a ham after attending one of Bob's classes. No amount of study will help unless you have a caring teacher to answer those hard questions that lead to the "oh now I understand" part of learning. Again, congratulations to Bob who has done such a GREAT JOB with our classes!



# Chatter

## KRE'S CORNER

Today is Christmas day. It is almost noon. My XYL Delores has gone back to bed and I am sitting here playing with a new program and a new printer that old Santa brought me cause I was such a good guy last year maybe if this works Mike won't have such a hard time trying to decipher my handwriting. Yeah all he will have to do is figure out how to spell it.

We had a pretty good turn out at our Christmas Party this year. There was plenty of good food for everyone and I don't think the BYOB slowed down anybody. I talked to Mrs. D's and she also caters picnic's so we will keep that in mind for this year's annual conference. Hi Hi.

Congratulations to Bob Bengert for winning the McCutchen Award this year. So often the quiet ones go unnoticed and unrewarded. I think the committee made a good choice by picking Bob for this honor. I know Bob has put in a lot of time and effort to teach our "Ham" Classes and a lot of hams around here call him ELMER.

We are starting a whole new year again. At the last Board Meeting we appointed Ralph Waldo, K9STX, to finish out the unexpired term of Charlie Sartore, N9DYE, who has been elected to the office of Treasurer. There is a list of the newly elected officers and directors along with their telephone numbers elsewhere in SPARKS. Keep these handy so if you have any ideas or complaints you can call us up.

Jim KA9KRE

## Feedback Carolyn KA9LMO

Our fearless leader KA9KRE has informed me that my two most important duties are picking up the donuts and coming up with the monthly programs. I must admit that finding food is absolutely no problem. I've been told that I was the youngest toddler ever to fill a shopping cart. However, when it comes to the programs I wouldn't mind having some input from club members.

I am certain I will be able to come up with some interesting and informative programs but knowing your preferences would help. If I don't hear anything from you folks I may be able to use a few ideas that came to me in a brainstorming session on New Years Eve.

I will leave it to your imagination as to what condition my brain was in at the time. Here goes!

# 1 THE BRAIN ALPHA RHYTHMS OF THOSE WHO WATCH BELLY DANCERS AND MALE GO GO DANCERS. Now don't snicker, haven't you had mobile interference when you've went by those places?

# 2 BALLET TRAINING FOR THOSE WHO ENTER HAM SHACKS. The equipment usually so outnumbers the square feet available that the above training could certainly save some orthopedic bills.

# 3 BASIC MOUNTAIN CLIMBING FOR TOWERING TASKS. Ditto the above expect here we are depriving the undertakers.

# 4 HOW TO BECOME A MILLIONAIRE IN 44 EASY LESSONS. This is required for all novices who are shopping for their first rigs. This is also a necessary program for all the home brewers who have just blown up their projects and everything else within a 50 foot radius.

# 5 MEDITATION FOR THE SOLITARY. This would be a special program geared to the spouses and friends of amateur radio operators.

# 6 STRESS MANAGEMENT FOR THOSE WHO ENTER CONTESTS. We all know these poor folk who are just a few contacts away from winning a contest when equipment goes down or that nasty sun starts spotting. This program will teach them to remove sharp objects from their immediate surroundings and to always have firearms under lock and key with the key hidden by a loved one.

Well these are just a few of my ideas. To prevent any of them from appearing at a meeting send your program requests to the little ole' editor, the address is upfront on the masthead of the newsletter.

You have a little time to mail your requests as tradition requires that the first two programs of the year are the AUCTION and BINGO. If we do not hear anything just remember to beware of the Ideas of March!

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*****
*
* Renew Your Membership
*
* Club Dues .....$ 8.00
* Repeater Dues... 12.00
* -----
* Total $20.00
*
* Senior Citizens
* (Over 65) 8.00
* Students club dues
* only 4.00
*
* Make Check Payable to TARS *
* and Mail to the Treasurer *
*
* Charlie Sartore, N9DYE *
* 709 East Virginia Street *
* Evansville, IN 47711 *
*
* You can also renew your *
* ARRL membership thru *
* TARS. We get to keep *
* $2.00 for our clubs *
* Treasury. Ask Charlie if *
* interested. *
*****
```



# LETTER TO EDITOR

Dec. 21, 1984

Mr. John Roach, President  
Radio Shack, Div. of Tandy Corp.  
300 One Tandy Center  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

It has come to my attention, Mr. Roach,

that your company has used the muscle of its vast size to force the change of name on a local retail outlet whose name is similar, but who does not have the financial resources to fight it in court.

The "Ham Shack" here in Evansville has been in business for several years, using terminology which has been a part of Amateur Radio for over 50 years. Every Amateur radio operator has his own "ham shack" from which he operates, many of which are literally "shacks" or outbuildings built specifically to house amateur radio equipment.

I, for one, take offense at your actions to force the "Ham Shack" to change its name. Since your company, while it does merchandise electronic equipment, makes no effort to sell the amateur community, and the "Ham Shack" sells only to the amateur radio community (licensed operators), I am unable to understand how your company can feel there's a conflict of names.

By forcing this change of name, I personally feel that your company has offended me as an amateur radio operator and I will thus find alternative sources for any purchases of equipment which might otherwise be made from one of your stores. I really expect that there are a great many other amateurs (there are over 350,000 in the USA) who will react the same way I have and I certainly hope it has a substantial negative effect.

It might be that you ought to reconsider what would appear to be a rather thoughtless action.

Cordially

Harold Wilson WB9FNN  
R.R. # 8, Box 427B  
Evansville, IN 47711

cc: Editor, QST Magazine  
Editor, 73 Magazine  
Mr. B. Appel, V.P. Mktg.

*Mike - The above letter  
mailed 12/21. At least  
put names + address  
in next Sparks for those  
others who want to  
support "The Ham Shack"*

*73 +  
merry Christmas  
Hal*

## ON-THE-AIR

Well Gang; ye ole' editor was going to give you a short course on computers but sorry to say no room this month. But I do have some important short announcements so please read it. If not you might be sorry.

### FCC - VE TESTING

FCC exams will be administered at IVTC, Indiana Vocational Technical College, 3501 First Avenue on February 16th., 1985. 610 forms and a check for \$4.00 made payable to ARRL/VEC must be mailed to Blanche M. Elpers, KA9EIV, 840 Herndon Drive Evansville, IN 47711 by JANUARY 17th.. If you need a 610 form, give me a call at 424-9182 and I'll send you one.

### JANUARY IS AUCTION

Don't forget the January Meeting will be the 10th. Program is going to be an AUCTION so bring the goodies that were replaced by Santa.

### PHONE NUMBERS

Jim KA9KRE	867-2934
Carolyn KA9LMO	476-5572
Elvin WB9VSQ	867-2865
Charlie N9DYE	Non Pub.
Blanche KA9EIV	424-9182
Roy KA9IWP	963-5885
Mike KA9LQM	476-5572
Charlie WB9NQD	782-3387

### SWAP SHOP

OMNI-D Series B Digital Readout 160 thru 100 100 watt Matching TENTEC power supply, speech processor, microphone, manuals, CW Filter, MFJ Keyer with Benchner. Contact John at 111 2nd. Ave, Oakland City, IN 47660 Phone 749-04404 or call on the repeater.



# ANNOUNCING

## DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE'S A NEW KID ON THE BLOCK?

A few weeks before Christmas a ten meter repeater became operational in Evansville. It's been around for over a year, but its center of operation was around Corydon, Ky which made mobile use in the Evansville area unrealistic without an amplifier. The idea for this repeater comes from Tom, WA9QDZ, but the equipment and expertise is that of Dick, WB9WDH (more familiar for his six meter repeater that has existed for over five years). The repeater is on channel 32 on the converted 40 channel CB's or 29.620 receive and down 100 for transmit.

Everyone is invited to use the repeater. There will be no user fees of any sort. Should anyone like to sell us equipment for the repeater at a good price -- or donate some -- you are welcome to do so as long as it does not put us under any obligations to anyone. We asked for no help.

Why a ten meter repeater? Well, if you like your chit-chats on two meters and the professional quality of the repeater's there, then don't come down to ten meters. If you have good quality equipment and a beam at reasonable height, then I suspect you won't need this repeater either. However, if you want to learn some electronics and want to experiment and not spend an arm and a leg, then this repeater opens a new dimension for you. If you live in an apartment building and can't put up a fancy antenna, then this is a lot better than nothing. If you don't have the money for a new ham band transceiver, but you have twenty to fifty dollars stashed away to play with, then consider this repeater. If you like the challenge of working DX, if you like the strain of digging a station out of QSB and QRM, then this is your option. If you insist that a repeater be operational every minute of the day and every day, then our setup is not for you because our equipment is not new and it will break down.

As far as range of operation with low power equipment and other questions of this type, the present setup is so new that we don't have answers. Remember, too, that operation on this part of the band is normally using vertical polarization. As far as where to get equipment and how to convert it, this will have to be dealt with in future articles. In the meantime, we refer you to Bob Heil's book and to articles in 73 and QST in the late 70's as starters.

Yes, this is a different operation. The first day it was on I worked a station in New York state while mobile at seven in the morning. There hasn't been a single day since Thanksgiving that the band hasn't been open for at least two hours. Most frequently, it has been at night between seven to nine to the South. On Saturday, December 8, around two in the afternoon, I heard a CP5 calling CQ on 29.000. He worked three California station that I also heard.

Well, if you're tired of the same old thing --- There's a new kid on the block!

Tom, WA9QDZ

## NAMES in the NEWS

READING THE MAIL de Blanche Elpers, KA9EIV

### CONGRATULATIONS

Gary, KA9ECY, who celebrated his 30th. birthday December 11th., had a nice surprise when he attended the Spencer Co. REACT's December meeting. Gary was named REACTOR of the month. He was presented a Certificate and trophy and will have his picture in the National REACT.

Jeff Merrow passed his Novice and Technician exams at Mt. Carmel on December 8th. and is awaiting his amateur radio call.

Jim Cavera who passed his Novice and Technician exams at Mt. Carmel in November is on the air with his N9EVY call. Jeff is a North High School student and Jim is a Mater Dei student. Welcome to Amateur Radio.

Tom, KA4IXQ made Technician class also at Mt. Carmel. Good to hear you on 2 meter Tom, we can always use another Mt. Vernon operator. Tom's XYL is Germaine, KA6BAS.

AK9G, Bob, who has taught classes every year since 1979 has two more hams to his credit with the completion of the last class. Bob was this year's winner of the McCutchan Award.





## SPARKS

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Vice Pres. Carolyn Anderson, KA9LMO  
Secretary Elvin Reed, WB9VSQ  
Treasurer Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

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Bill Spencer, WD9HUK  
Ralph Waldo, K9STX  
Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Charlie Finke, WB9NQD  
Mort Silverman, W9GJ

### SPARKS EDITOR:

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T.A.R.S. regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Diamond and Heidelberg Avenues at the American Red Cross building. Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM Evansville time.  
The Officers & Directors meetings will be held on the third Thursday at 7:00 PM Evansville time at the American Red Cross building.

The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM Evansville time on the W9OG Repeater 147.75/15 Everyone Welcome to this net.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

TO:

Fay Gehres  
2232 East Powell  
Evansville  
47715

044

tars  
W9AIN

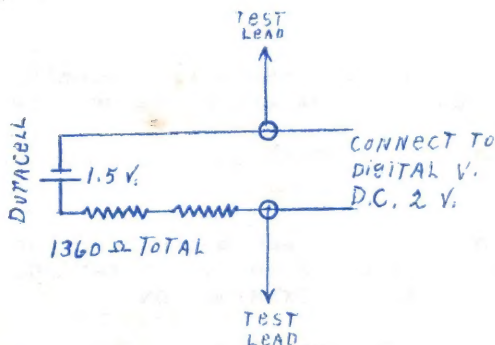
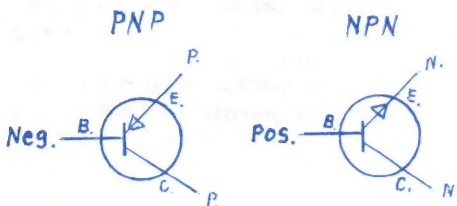
IL

If you have any questions or articles for SPARKS contact the Editor.

### TECH TIPS de

George Robinson (K9PKG)

### Test Leads Connections.



Here is a schematic & instructions on how I have checked transistors in and out of circuits for years with 100% success in locating both good and bad transistors. It is so quick and easy. I realize it won't tell you everything; but good and bad is our big problem in trouble shooting.

I did use a Simpson 260 set on R x 100 ohm for a power supply; all VOM wont work. I do think the 260 has good output on R x 100; it has 1.5 Volts and 1ma which will not hurt most good junctions (I use only alkaline batteries like DURACELL which have 1.5 Volts; some others will go past 1.7Volts.

This set up will check many different components such as diodes and transistors. Germanium junctions Voltage should be around .2 to .3 Volts while Silicon junctions voltage should be around .6 to .7 Volts. I use a Fluke digital Multimeter. A good meter is a must, analogue meters are not accurate enough.

On PNP transistors connect the Negative lead to the base; then connect Positive lead to Emitter and then to Collector.

On NPN transistors connect the Positive lead to the base; then connect Negative lead to Emitter and then to Collector

0 Volts reading indicates a Short  
1.5 Volts reading indicates an Open  
Voltages lower than normal indicates Leakage

EDITOR'S NOTE: Send your TECH TIPS to SPARKS. If enough material is received this could be a nice monthly feature. Come on guys you must have some short and sweet tips to help out A Computer Wizard or is that Computer's Gizzard.



# Chatter

I held off writing this month so I could report on the INCERT meeting at the State Police Post. Don Jackson told us that INCERT has purchased a portable 20KW generator and he is working towards having it mounted on a two axle trailer so it can be moved around with just about anything when finished it will have a storage area for a tent, fresh water supply, a crank up tower on each corner with a bank of lights on each tower. He also has bought a 1.5 KW generator to use for the radio's in the trailer. Sometime soon a new TEN-TEC Corsair should be showing up. That along with the new Azden should make the trailer ready for just about any kind of an emergency. All we need now is some member that is willing to go to the State Police Post during emergencies and tests to operate all of this equipment. If anyone is interested give me a call at 867-2934. We also need someone for the Red Cross & Civil Defense. Think.

I checked into the Civil Defense R.A.C.E.S. Net on Jan. 26th at 3996.5 They were real pleased with the amount of check-ins for the first time so they are going to have a net once a month and maybe get it down to once a week later on. We will keep you posted about Times & Dates on the regular Wednesday night nets.

I got a letter from Fred Cottrell apologizing for not making it to the Christmas party and thanking us for our donation to the Red Cross. He was tied up in Indianapolis and got back after we left the Kingsmens Club.

## Feedback de Carolyn KA9LMO

I don't know if I can safely attend the February meeting of TARS. As longtime club members know, the second meeting of the year is BINGO! That might seem innocent enough to you but it can be very dangerous when you come from a family of bingo addicts.

My mother knew of the flaw in our genetic structure and never set foot in a bingo parlor. She knew firsthand because Grandma was the prime carrier of the B-1 gene. Grandma was my most frequent babysitter and we all know how formative those early years can be.

I didn't realize until many years later that much of the vocabulary that Grandma taught me was tainted with the influence from the B-1 gene. For example, we didn't get dressed we did a cover all. My playpen was the little four corners. The back fenced yard was the big four corners and the parking space next to Sears with the broken parking meter was the free space.

Never telling mother of course, Grandma took me to my first Bingo when I was six. She found one every night of the week except Sunday when she always had a toddy to steady her nerves. We averaged 3-4 sessions a week and I seemed to have a natural flair for the game.

I quickly learned my numbers and 5 letters of the alphabet and here-in lied my downfall. My first grade teacher sent one of my papers home with a question as to why I couldn't write my numbers without using the letters I N B O G. Mom was very good at word games and quite suddenly the secret was out. Grandma was chastised and for me NO MORE BINGO! The withdrawal was painful but the young heal quickly and I thought no more about it.

Even though that was many years ago I still feel the weakness. Though you can't find it anymore B-1 is still my favorite soft drink. Whenever I play Bingo at parties my palms sweat for the longest time and for about 2 weeks I have the urge to go over to Holy Spirit, but that is a place a Bingo addict can never enter.

As an officer I must attend the meeting in February and who knows maybe this time the urge won't last long. But if any of you see a silver Escort with Ham plates parked in the Holy Spirit parking lot do come in and help me to exit.

I've been told that scientists are working around the clock on project BINGO to help me and my kind. It stands for:

Bingo  
Is  
Not  
Good,  
Overcome!

I know where to send contributions so send me your pennies and nickels. That should get me a few extra cards the next time I play!

73 Carolyn

## VE TEST CHANGES

Under new regulations, you must attach a photocopy of your current license, if any, to the Form 610. AND YOU MUST BRING THE ORIGINAL LICENSE TO THE EXAMINATION.

Be sure and use the new 610 Forms Check with Dan N9APA or call Blanche KA9EIV she has a limited number of 610's.



## TARS CLUB MEETING 1-10-85 RED CROSS BUILDING

## OLD BUSINESS

1. VE-TESTING Article was in the newspaper and on the radio. 610 forms must be in by January 17, 1985.
2. Fred Cottrell sent a letter thanking TARS for the \$550.00 we donated to the Red Cross.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. WB9FNN, Hal's letter: It was suggested that we all write TANDY (Radio Shack) and mail all letters at once.  
This concerns Ham Shack & Radio Shack & the Changing of the name of The Ham Shack to The Ham Station.
2. Hamfest will be May 19, 1985
3. Program was the Annual Auction

## TARS BOARD MEETING 1-17-85 Red Cross Building

## OLD BUSINESS

1. Blanche, KA9EIV, is filling out the forms for ARRL (TARS).
2. Join the ARRL through TARS & the club will receive \$2.00

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Hamfest ads must be mailed by first week in February.
2. Hamfest May 19, 1985 The 4-H Center is now requiring partial payment in advance.
3. Ads in SPARKS will be \$20.00 per page in 1985.
4. DUES ARE DUE. Dues should be paid by the first of March to continue receiving SPARKS.
5. INCERT meeting tuesday, January 29, 1985 at 7:30 PM Indiana State Police post.
6. ARRL/VE tests will be given day of the Hamfest. A seperate building will be used for testing at the Hamfest site.
7. Program for February will be a BINGO. Lots of prizes and refreshments.
8. It was voted to buy a BINGO set for the club.
9. It was voted to spend no more than \$100.00 for prizes for the BINGO.

WB9VSQ, Elvin

## VOLUNTEER EXAMINER PROGRAM

The FCC Volunteer Examiner Program is off to a very good start. When the January 17th. deadline arrived we had 17 applications on file, complete with the photocopy of license and the \$4.00 ARRL/VEC check.

These applications came from Vincennes, West Baden, Sommerville, Mt. Vernon, Chandler and Evansville in Indiana and Sumner, Allendale and Eldorado in Illinois.

We had good coverage of the forth coming test with announcements on HF 3.910, VHF repeater nets in Vincennes, Pike Co., Warrick Co., Mt. Carmel, IL, our local Wed. night nets and the 146.28/88 repeater at Williams Hill in Illinois. Notices were in the local papers with a very nice article in the Evansville Press. Notices were also on local radio & television stations.

The first test date is February 16, 1985 at IVTC and the next one being on HAMFEST DAY, MAY 19, 1985 Tentative dates are August 17 and November 16 with cutoff dates for receiving 610 forms as April 19, July 18, and November 17. More on these tests will be published later.

KA9EIV, Blanche

## ON-THE-AIR

Last week you could buy VIC-20's for around sixty bucks at several of the discount stores in Evansville. Add a used Kantronics Interface and software and you are in business on RTTY and the ASCII MSO's for under \$200. Not bad last year the same setup would cost \$500.

The new Commodore has built in software; however in the Word Processing mode you are limited to 99 lines for a letter; that is one and one half pages. There are no provisions to merge sections of letters which would enable you to print longer letters. Not everyone will need to write long-winded letters but the ads just tell you all the software that is in ROM (Read Only Memory) and they fail to make clear the limitations of the system. Also by changing computer and video chips you get to buy all new software again. The wonderful sound system of the C-64 went down the tubes on the new machines; so no more free Moog Synthesizer in the package. A lot of the good game programs used the sound system to its fullest potential.

Service is no problem on VIC-20's & C-64's. Ham Radio Hardware and Software is available now. It will take 6 months to a year for the packages to be developed for the new machines.

73 Mike KA9LQM



## TEN METER REPEATER - MONTH TWO de Tom WA9QDZ

Yes, the ten meter repeater has stayed on the air the whole month. True, the identifier kicked the bucket, and it suffered from ear troubles for several days, but it is, at this writing, working better than when we put it on a month ago. Some of the refinements are more functional than visual. For example, we have done away with relays and are switching using electronic logic. New tubes have been installed in the receiver and the transmitter has passed a physical. So, when will you try it?

You must remember that the repeater is vertically polarized and that access with fancy beams may be a lot more disappointing than you think. A dipole made of wire, fed with coax, and hung vertically with the shield down will do better than a fancy beam; (On about ten watts, it has a range (mobile) similar to the 19/79 repeater). Also, please don't refer to the repeater at "Tom Dick's". Remember, the expertise and equipment are Dick's WB9WDH, and this repeater has been in operation for over a year under his call sign. (Old Chinese Proverb, "He who builds the identifier has the real power.")

Also, why don't you give your fancy 100 watt rig a rest or monitor your favorite frequency with it. That kind of equipment is OK, but not necessary. Let's begin to learn ham radio again, like in the good old days. Pull out the old antenna books and build yourself a cheap vertical.

Bob Heil's book is available in local libraries and from publishers of ham material. Remember that the word for operation is cheap. The object is to learn something and not tie up so much money or use such high power that you're afraid to put your fingers into it. So, why don't you start looking for a cheap CB? You don't want just any CB; you don't want one that uses fundamental crystals; that is, if channel 10 is 27.175Mhz.; then that crystal is found in the rig. You must have one that steps up to CB frequencies. If it doesn't use a bunch of crystals, it uses a PLL circuit. These units have three crystals and a large IC on one corner of the board which may be labeled 02A. Look for (Kraco models 2310B, 4010B, 2320B, 4020B) (Lafayette models Micro 223, HB-650, HB-750, HB-950) (Hygain models 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 9A) (Pierce Simpson Tiger 40A) (Midland 13-888B, 13-882C, 13-857C)

For reading material on this subject, try the following (You can get these articles through inter-library loan at your local library if they don't have them on the shelf).

1. Steve Herman WA7WYF, "Try FM on 29.6 MHz", 73 Magazine November 1978 Page 184
2. Sams Photofact, CB radio series, CB-148, November 1977 (Try Ohio Valley Sound, Hutch & Sons, or parts store)
3. H. Knickerbocker, A. Weise and R. Stielaw, "CB to 10 FM Best conversion yet?", 73 Mag., Jan. 1980, Pg 117
4. Robert W. Fay WB0NPN "Peaking and Tweaking Surplus CB Boards", 73 Magazine March 1982, Page 38
5. Bob Heil K9EID, "Experience 10 Meter FM Operation" QST Aug. 1981 Page 22
6. Bob Heil K9EID, "The 10 Meter FM Handbook, Melco Publishing, Post Office Box 26, Marissa, IL 62257

Tom, WA9QDZ

## RENEW YOUR 1985 TARS MEMBERSHIP NOW!

### FIELD DAY RESULTS

This years results are in for Field Day scores. TARS placed 11th. out of 43 entries in the Class 2A Battery Power. Next year the gang plans to go all out and go for the points. Give it a try we will have food and fun for all more details will be announced as the event gets nearer.

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***** 1984 TARS DUES *****
*
* Renew Your Membership * and Mail to the Treasurer *
*
* Club Dues .....$ 8.00 * Charlie Sartore, N9DYE *
* Repeater Dues... 12.00 * 709 East Virginia Street *
* ----- * Evansville, IN 47711 *
* Total $20.00 *
*
* Senior Citizens * You can also renew your *
* (Over 65) 8.00 * ARRL membership thru *
* Students club dues * TARS. We get to keep *
* only 4.00 * $2.00 for our clubs *
* * Treasury. Ask Charlie if *
* * interested. *
*
* DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF SPARK PAY DUES NOW *
* Dues Must be Paid by the end of February *
*****
```





# SPARKS

## Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

VOLUME XXVI NO. III



### OFFICERS:

President Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE  
Vice Pres. Carolyn Anderson, KA9LMO  
Secretary Elvin Reed, WB9VSQ  
Treasurer Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

### DIRECTORS:

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Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Charlie Finke, WB9NQD  
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### SPARKS EDITOR:

Mike Anderson, KA9LOM  
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from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

TO:

T.A.R.S. regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Diamond and Heidelberg Avenues at the American Red Cross building. Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM Evansville time.  
The Officers & Directors meetings will be held on the third Thursday at 7:00 PM Evansville time at the American Red Cross building.

The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM Evansville time on the W9OG Repeater 147.75/15 Everyone Welcome to this net.

If you have any questions or articles for SPARKS contact the Editor.

# 1985 T.A.R.S. HAMFEST

## SUNDAY MAY 19, 1985

Well Gang it is almost time for the Annual HAMFEST. This year the Hamfest will be Sunday, May 19, 1985. It will be at the same location as the last few years; The Vanderburgh County 4-H Fairgrounds Auditorium.

A new addition to the usual Hamfest Events will be ARRL/VE testing for all license classes. The testing will be in a separate building. See other articles for details.

Elvin Reed, WB9VSQ will be handling the Kitchen Detail. Mort Silverman, W9GJ will be in charge of the front gate and ticket sales the day of the Hamfest. This year we have some super prizes.

**First Prize:** Yaesu FT-757GX Mobile All Mode Transceiver, it is a super piece of gear. All Bands including 160M, 30M, 17M, 12M with all of the options already standard equipment. AM, FM, 600 Hz. CW Filter, Iambic Keyer, AF Speech Processor all as standard factory equipment. Small enough to work DX even in a compact car.

**Second Prize:** VHS Video Recorder

**Third Prize:** ICOM 02AT 2 Meter Handheld

The hamfest flyers will be printed by the time you receive this issue of SPARKS. This issue along with Hamfest information is also going to most of the clubs in Indiana, Northern Kentucky and Southern Illinois. We hope to have a great turn out at this years Hamfest.

We are exploring several possibilities for Hamfest Forums; they include SIGECO Hot Show, Computer RTTY Forum, The new weather bureau reporting system, Satellite TVRO, and some other possibilities.

We will also be having a FREE BINGO for the ladies, QLF (left foot CW Contest), QSL Card Contest, Hourly Door Prizes and lots of misc. prizes.



# Chatter

It looks like Spring is just around the corner; it hasn't snowed now for over a week. It's time to start thinking HAMFEST & FIELD DAY. Mike (KA9LQM) & Carolyn (KA9LMO) have agreed to run the Hamfest this year. They will be contacting you for help so when they ask DO'NT SAY NO!; Don't forget this is our only money maker for the year.

Speaking of Hamfest; at the last Board Meeting I had a sample jacket that we can put the club logo on to wear to Hamfests and when working Public Service Events to get some publicity for TARS. They are a pretty nice jacket and logo design combination. It will take about three weeks delivery time to get them so we will need to hurry to get them ready for our Hamfest. The price if we can order a minimum of 36 will be \$14.75 each. If I haven't called you give me a call at 867-2934 to place your order.

Carolyn (KA9LMO) did a fine job on last month's program; one new member even called another member to see if all of our meetings run that smooth; He liked it. Finding programs that are interesting to everybody is a tough job so if you have any ideas give her a call at 476-5572. I am sure she will appreciate it. She has the Weather Bureau scheduled for March. We will have our regular meeting with a speaker from the bureau at the Red Cross and then afterwards anyone interested can go to the weather bureau (at Dress Regional Airport) for a tour through the weather station. It should be interesting

73 Jim KA9KRE

## Feedback de Carolyn KA9LMO

As I write this the ice and snow are still deep but it is not too soon to begin planning for our Hamfest in May. The 12 weeks will go very quickly so I'm going to help nudge KA9LQM to get ready and get into shape.

He is contemplating running the kitchen or at least helping with the food. The kitchen detail that day is a grueling test of endurance not to be attempted by those who are not prepared, i.e. in shape. The main problem with our editor is that he likes his shape and doesn't want to change it.

As far as Mike is concerned exercise should be a four letter word and not mentioned in polite society. He figures that if we were meant to sweat air-conditioning would not have been invented. He also believes that we would have come into the world wearing little work out suits if exercise was a truly natural activity.

I know it's going to be rough but I think I have a workout regimen for him that will be just perfect. Keep in mind that along with computers and electronic gizmos he enjoys cooking and watching attractive members of the opposite sex.

The warm up would be the neck crane stretch. He has ample opportunity to do this one near our home. We pass the U of E campus everyday and as soon as the first warm rays emerge so do the bikinis.

Next we have the onion bag lift, close kin to the bench press. He buys his special 50 lb bag of onions in Vincennes. As he comes out of the store I will hide the car and make him carry them to his mother's apartment 3 miles away. Rather than let them touch the snow or mud I know he'll carry them over his head to protect future batches of French Onion Soup. Then of course when he sees me a few hours later (he can very be slow), I'll take off and we'll have a fun run.

Since he will probably have a knife in each hand during the fun run he'll certainly be picked up and put in some government affiliated kitchen. After he has at least 60 days practice while his attorneys straighten out the misunderstanding LQM will come out a pro. He will truly understand the physiology of a feeding frenzy and he will know how fast food is really produced.

I just know that the above work out will prepare him for the Hamfest kitchen. I can imagine just a few of the special dishes he will prepare for us. VE Stew will have a 610 form to rate it. KA9KRE will provide the SIGECO hot show after he tries Mike's special Chili with the 1000 year old Chili peppers. Also available will be the ARRL special QST - Quiche So Tasty, all the real men will have to have some. We of course will let KA9EIV choose the kind of dessert but we think she'll choose NET cake - Needs Extra Time, after all she doesn't do much of anything.

For the above puny paragraph I know what my duties will be Hamfest day, does anyone have a cure for dishpan hands. HELP, rescue me from the sink, I'll do anything. Uh oh, sure hope KRE doesn't see that, after all, he's still looking for a Hamfest Chairman. Nevermind, cancel the HELP, I love water!

73 Carolyn  
\*\*\* Newsflash \*\*\* Stop the Presses \*\*\* Newsflash \*\*\*  
The above ditty was written a couple of weeks ago and we have news! Elvin WB9VSQ is in charge of the kitchen and Mike KA9LQM is the Hamfest Chairman. See what Mike will do to avoid exercise! I'm not sure if the cure is better than the malady!

Bye again and 73



# AUTOPATCH OPERATION PROCEDURES

Shortly the autopatch will be moved from the KASLQM Bird Farm back to the Red Cross. The patch was removed from the Red Cross due to suspected trouble; which has to date never reappeared. For those new members who are unfamiliar with the patch I will once again briefly go over the operation of the patch.

1. Announce your call and that you are accessing the autopatch.

2. Enter the Access code (you should be given the code when you pay 1985 dues; if you need it give me a phone call); you will hear a CW ID (W90G) followed by a 3 second dial tone. After the dial tone drops you have 3 seconds to begin dialing your number.

3. Since this is a simplex patch you can't hear the other person on the phone while transmitting and they can't hear you while talking.

4. The patch thinks a busy signal is your party talking; however at 20 seconds you hear the reset beep and have 3 seconds to transmit the disconnect code (presently 1234) also the CW Id is transmitted 4 times before the 6 minute time out. You can reset the timer with the code (123) during the 3 second window after the CW Id.

5. The autopatch will disconnect you if you attempt to access long distance with a 1 or 0 as the first digit of your dialed number.

In most cases the major problem with patch operation is YOU MUST WAIT for the DIAL TONE TO DROP before you dial your number.

## VOLUNTEER EXAMINER PROGRAM

The Volunteer Examiner Program in Evansville is moving right along with the second tests scheduled for Sunday, May 19, 1985. The test site will be at the Annual TARS HAMFEST, Vanderburgh County 4-H Fairgrounds. A separate building will be used for the testing to eliminate the noise and distractions during testing. Building location will be marked as you enter the Fairgrounds.

Those who's 610's are received 30 days in advance of the test will be guaranteed a seat at the tests. A limited number of walk-ins will be accepted on the testing day.

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED, ON WALK-IN'S!  
FOR A GUARANTEED SEAT  
SEND YOUR APPLICATION 30 DAYS IN ADVANCE.

Mail 610 form and check for \$4.00 made payable to ARRL/VEC to:  
John Norrick, KD9JB  
111 Second Avenue  
Oakland City, IN 47660

Deadline is April 19, 1985. Your check must reach John by that date so mail a few days early.

FCC Form 610's can also be obtained from John; however please be sure and send a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope with your request.

## NEW TARS SICK LEAVE POLICY

TARS will adopt the following sick leave policy for its members in 1985. It comes highly recommended from the Pike County ARC newsletter "Capacitor".

**SICKNESS:** No excuse!. We will no longer accept your doctor's statement as proof as we believe that if you are able to go to the doctor, you are able to attend club functions.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:** If it is for an operation, we strongly recommend that, as a member of TARS, you need everything that was issued to you and you have nothing removed. Having something removed would certainly make you less than we bargained for. No dues reimbursements will be considered.

**REST ROOMS:** Too much time is being spent in the rest rooms. In the future we will follow the practice of going to the rest rooms in alphabetical order. If you are unable to go when your turn comes, you will have to wait until next club meeting to go again.

**DEATH (YOURSELF):** This will be accepted as a valid excuse; but, we need at least thirty days notice since the club has to get it into SPARKS and the Board of Directors can decide whether or not to accept your death.

**HAMFEST CHAIRMAN'S NOTE:** If you violate one of the above rules you can still get GOLD STARS by working the Hamfest on May 19, 1985. For a limited time (until I find someone to do a job) you can Volunteer for the job of your choice at the Hamfest.



## ON-THE-AIR

It has been suggested that TARS sponsor a computer class. If there is enough interest we might have a class introducing various systems available. From there we could also have a class on the major language used with the mini-computers, "BASIC".

There will be no fees for classes with the exception of any necessary books. If we just cover the various systems & "BASIC" no outside textbooks would be necessary. From there the class can go in whatever direction the Hams in the class desire. It would be difficult to cover a subject such as machine language programing unless we covered the basics first. In reality the use of machine level programing gives more understanding of the computer chip; however like a car you do not need to know all about the inner working to drive it. A lot of computers are just sitting gathering dust; let's get them on ASCII for MSO use or just dust off the old machine and use it to keep track of your station log. The uses are too numerous to mention. Rather than just using programs; teaching you to program; lets you make the computer work for you. Let me know your interests and we can go from there.

73 MIKE KA9LQM

## 1985 TARS MEMBERSHIP

### LOOK AT YOUR MAILING LABEL!

If it has 1984 in the top right hand corner this is the last SPARKS you will receive. Your last chance is at hand; don't lose the best birdcage liner in existence. Send your 1985 dues NOW! Send dues to Charlie and re-start your SPARKS before it is too late.

## VE UPDATE

With the administering of the FCC exams locally be a team of Volunteer Examiners accredited by ARRL, some few persons are of the opinion that getting an Amateur Radio license or upgrading a present license will be much easier. Perhaps it is in one way, in that, you don't have to travel to Indianapolis, Chicago, Louisville, etc. to take the exam and maybe miss a day of work.

The rules are those laid down by the FCC, the tests are designed by the FCC and the question pools are those maintained by the FCC. The FCC receives the test results from the VEC and issues the license to the applicant.

It is necessary to have your 610 application, photo copy of present license and a \$4.00 check made payable to ARRL/VEC in the hands of the VE team no less than 30 days prior to the test date to assure an appointment. Starting with the next test session we will be able to take a LIMITED NUMBER of walk-ins -- this is on a first come-first served basis. Your 610 form ahead of time will assure you a seat.

The tests on February 16, 1985 were given to 15 amateurs with the following upgrading to:

Paul F. Abel	KA9HFU	Vincennes	Gen.
Terry K. Moe	KA9SXC	Evansville	Adv.
Norman R. Young	KA9SXG	Chandler	Tech.
Gail E. Bennett	KA9NNX	Sumner, IL	Tech.
Geo. H. Hutchinson	KA9NSH	Sommerville	Tech.
Germaine M. Ledoux	KA6BAS	Mt. Vernon	Tech.
Harvey D. Bennett	KA9JUL	Sumner, IL	Gen.
John R. Auerswald	KA9SIG	Allendale, IL	Tech.
James F. Shoptaugh	KA9KRE	Evansville	Adv.

The next test will be on Sunday, May 19, 1985 at the Hamfest site, Vanderburgh County 4-H Center. John Norrick, KD9JB, will be the VE team contact person you can write him at: John Norrick, KD9JB  
111 Second Avenue  
Oakland City, IN 47660

Be sure to have your 610 application, photo copy of license and \$4.00 check payable to ARRL/VEC to him by April 19, 1985.

### KA9EIV

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***** 1985 TARS DUES *****
*
* Renew Your Membership * Make Check Payable to TARS *
*                               * and Mail to the Treasurer *
*
* Club Dues .....$ 8.00 * Charlie Sartore, N9DYE *
* Repeater Dues... 12.00 * 709 East Virginia Street *
*                               * Evansville, IN 47711 *
*                               *
* Total $20.00 *
*
* Senior Citizens * You can also renew your *
* (Over 65) 8.00 * ARRL membership thru *
* Students club dues * TARS. We get to keep *
* only 4.00 * $2.00 for our clubs *
*                               * Treasury. Ask Charlie if *
*                               * interested. *
*                               *
* DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF SPARK PAY DUES NOW *
* Dues Must be Paid by the end of February *
*****
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## SPARKS

Tri-State Amateur Radio Society  
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

4-85



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Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

TO:

If you have any questions or articles for SPARKS contact the Editor.

# HAMFEST SUNDAY MAY 19, 1985

Well Gang; it is almost HAMFEST '85. This years Hamfest is May 19, 1985. Same place as the last few years Vanderburgh County 4-H Center. See the enclosed flyer for more details. Those of you wanting to take the ARRL/VE tests need to get your 610 forms in to John Norrick, KD9JB, 111 Second Avenue, Oakland City, IN 47660 by April 19, 1985. A limited number of walk-ins will be accepted; however this is on a first come basis. Better to be safe than sorry. Send 610, Check for 4.00 made payable to ARRL/VEC, and photo copy of license to John.

Great prizes this year! Your \$3.00 General Admission button is good on some of the hourly prizes. In addition we will be giving away a cordless telephone on the buttons. Additional hourly prize tickets will be available at the front admission table. Grand Prizes will include:

First Prize is a YAESU 757-GX All Band All Mode Mobile Transceiver

Second Prize is a VHS VIDEO RECORDER

Third Prize is a KENWOOD TH21-AT 2 meter Handheld "The latest in miniature gear"

### Special Forums include:

- (1.) Doc Miller, WB4AOH from Owensboro will present a program on ATV. This will include a low cost down converter. At present we are checking on the possibility of re-broadcasting the National Weather Service Radar on the 79 machine. Call up would be via a 2 digit touch-tone code. Come see what you can do for a few bucks.
- (2.) Norm Carroll of the National Weather Service will present a program on Skywarn and is very interested in meeting the Amateurs in his service area. This now includes 46 counties in Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky.
- (3.) Mike KA9LQM will present a short forum on the adaptation of various computers to Ham radio use. Also sign-ups and determination of the material which will be taught in a TARS computer class later in the year.
- (4.) An ARRL forum will be presented. The exact material covered is not known at press time; however it will not be a Traffic Forum.
- (5.) One of the area's TVRO dealers will present a forum on the latest advances and equipment in this fast growing field.
- (6.) There will also be a few surprises in store for the Hamfest; no details you will have to come to find out.



# Chatter

We are entering into the severe weather season so it's time to check those towers & down guys. The club still owns a safety belt and a gin pole. If you need them give me a call. Let's not take any unnecessary chances. The life you save may be your own. OK that's my annual warning.

We had a great meeting in March. About 60 members showed up for the program by the weather bureau and as usual Ernie Block did a fine job of presenting the program and then stayed with us during the tour of the National Weather Service at the Airport. I think everybody now has some idea of what takes place when we activate the weather net. Another thing - I have been checking into the Indiana Wet Net on 3910 every morning at 7:10 and I found out that these reports are put on the computer in Indy and can be brought up by any of the weather bureaus which was interesting.

The Club Jackets and Logo's have been ordered and should be in by the end of March. I will get them to Seigel's as soon as possible for the Names & Call Sign. We should have them finished by the middle of April. Send your check for \$18.40 to Charlie Sartore so we can pay for them when they are finished.

HAMFEST is coming. We still need help and Door Prizes. Almost all stores & business's have set aside in their budget money for door prizes to local non-profit groups so stop in and see them. Let's make this the biggest Hamfest ever. We will have tickets at the next meeting so check with your friends to see how many they want. Everybody can use a new VCR. If every member sold \$10.00 worth of tickets we could start off operating in the black. It might be a way to pick up a new Yaesu 757-GX pretty cheap - Make a deal with your friends. If they win the radio you will buy it from them for 3 or 4 hundred bucks or better than that, I will buy it from them since I probably need another radio Hi Hi. Anyway I am sure that during the year you buy tickets from at least ten people so now is the time for you to get even. See you at the meeting.

73 Jim

Editor's Note: Treasurer is  
Charlie Sartore, N9DYE  
709 East Virginia Street  
Evansville, IN 47711

## HAMFEST SCHEDULE

The following hamfest have been set in Indiana for 1985. If any dates are in error or you know of additions please let the Editor know.

May 19	Wabash
May 19	EVANSVILLE
Jun 2	Terre Haute
Jun 9	Muncie
Jun 16	Crown Point
Jul 14	Indianapolis
Jul 21	La Porte

Aug 4	Angola
Aug 11	Lafayette
Aug 25	Argos
Sept 1	Bloomington
Sept 8	Marion
Oct 8	Bedford
Nov 10	Fort Wayne

In addition, major out-of-state hamfests are Dayton April 26-29; Peoria Sept. 15; ARRL Convention Louisville KY Oct. 4-5.

Ask what you can do for the HAMFEST not what the HAMFEST CAN DO TO YOU! We all know a Hamfest can relieve us of several month's worth of groceries. So; have I got a deal for You! (That's why "LMO" says not all the flim-flam artists are dead)

Elvin, WB9VSQ will be taking care of business in the Kitchen. He still needs volunteers for the morning and afternoon shifts.

Mort, W9GJ will take care of ticket and button sales at the Hamfest. He can schedule you in at the hour of your choice.

Mike, KA9LQM will take care of advance ticket and advance button sales. This year you can buy your Admission Buttons in advance. Wear it early to publicize the Hamfest.

I will also need one person to take care of the Outside Flea Market Spaces & one person to help exhibitors find their tables the day of the Hamfest. Want a sit-down job; need several people to help on the Talk-In Radios.

Delores will be working on the BINGO! She will need a helper. While we are on the subject of BINGO, hit up your business associates for a small BINGO prize. Hourly prizes are also needed. If the winning first prize ticket is sold in advance; I will have a special prize for the ticket seller; so lets get to work and put the Hamfest in the black before we open the doors on May 19, 1985. Selling the winning ticket the day of the Hamfest doesn't count.

We will have a Kenwood dealer this year; Memphis Amateur Electronics. They are also an authorized Kenwood Repair Station.

Yaesu will be represented by Dan N9APA and The Ham Station. We would like to thank both of the above dealers for helping with the Prizes.



## FCC NOTES

New Address Effective  
March 2, 1985

FCC Chicago District Office  
1550 Northwest Highway  
Park Ridge Office Park  
Room 306  
Park Ridge, IL 60068

Telephone:  
Public (312) 353-0195  
Recording (312) 298-5171

Recording gives information on the dates of upcoming commercial FCC licence exams. All Amateur Exams are now given by the Volunteer Examiner Program.

Area Exam Schedules will be printed in Sparks as information is available.

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Special Lifetime General  
Radiotelephone Operator  
Licence Certificates  
available during 1985  
Calendar Year.

Diploma type licence is available to anyone holding a First Class, Second Class or General Radiotelephone Operator License issued or renewed between Jan. 1, 1979 and June 14, 1984 is eligible.

To obtain this special lifetime licence certificate you must send your request to the SAME FCC FIELD OFFICE THAT ISSUED your last license, whether it was a renewal on an initial license. Include your name as it appears on your license, date of birth, and license number. Write the words "LIFETIME LICENSE" above the field offices address. Please enclose a SASE for returning the licence. Use a 9 1/2" x 12" envelope if you want your certificate delivered unfolded. Note this is good ONLY during 1985.

## FEEDBACK de KA9LMO

Beware my friends, the flim-flam artist has not disappeared from our cities and roadways, they still exist. We all know that Amateur Radio operators are a smart bunch, it does take a few IQ points to pass those exams. We are not easily fooled and I have uncovered a flim-flam ( from here on to be known as FX2 ) man in our midst.

This man can delve into the most mysterious realms of computer science and yet claims he doesn't know how to make a bed. He can develop a unique system of fundraising for a public television station that brings in thousands of dollars worth of merchandise to benefit said station yet he can't figure out how to run a washing machine. He can figure out a bid on a government contract for his employer that a computer couldn't tackle in 48 hours in about 60 minutes but he can't figure out to dry a dish.

Have you discerned the identity of our f x 2 man yet? Eureka, you've got it, it's KA9LQM! I'll now go into detail.

Yes making a bed is indeed a very complicated affair for our gentleman. I make it especially difficult because I have a waterbed that requires a special set of sheets. Waterbed sheets are sewn together at the bottom and each corner has a pocket that the corner of the waterbed mattress is stuffed into. It's really a rather simple affair, you place the sheet on top of the mattress and then stuff it, funny that's what I thought I heard him mutter under his breath, then he said he just couldn't figure it out. He said that there was nothing worse than backward sheets and he'd defer to my expertise.

Almost as bad as bed making is operation of that most complicated electronic beast - THE WASHER !!!! He says that the combination of cycles is staggering. He claims that trying to make a decision between cold-perma press, warm-delicate, hot-regular with soak, 1 rinse, 2 rinse or no rinse is just too much to contemplate. He tells that the situation generates so much stress that he can feel his blood pressure rising. And since blood pressure medicine is so expensive it would be wise for me to do all the laundry!

Last but certainly not least are the dishes. This man can walk hours on end at a zoo. He plans on going to Dayton and I'm sure he'll buzz through there faster than an Olympic race walker. He can get into positions that would amaze a contortionist to make a Minnesota Fats pool shot. Yet the reason he can't help me dry the dishes is that standing there with the towel hurts his poor little back. I weep for his terrible plight don't you?!

So as you can see Flim - Flam is not an archaic art. It is practiced in the here and now by certain folk. Your only defense is a good sense of humor and a desire for revenge. I've discovered a wonderful cleaning service that for \$50 a hour can figure out how to do all of the above easily. I'm going to call them in on my next day off and they should be done in 5 hours easy, I'll have them bill the FX2 man. It will be signed "Love, your Flim Flam Woman, I learn quick!"

73 Carolyn

Editors Note: The HAMFEST takes all my free time which could be devoted to YUCK "Housework" DOUBLE YUCK!!!!



## PRODUCT REVIEW de W9FHA

It is not very often that I really get "Turned ON" by a piece of electronic equipment, but this one is Different....a Viking II CDC. This Solid Stately Rig has what it takes to work DX without taking food from the family to pay for it. It is an All-American Rig, No plastic to break and will take years of use. The Viking is an all mode rig capable of operating LSB, USB and CW simultaneously at a continuous power rating of 180 watts. Try that with a Rice Box! The instruction book is one of the most complete I've seen and contains everything you need in case the rig should require servicing. After familiarizing myself with the many controls it was time to try it out on the air. A quick CQ on 30 meters bought an instant reply from DL2AVQ/YV5 report was 599, "Nice note and strongest signal on the band". Many contacts on 40, 30, and 20 meters with similar comments proved to me that this is non an ordinary rig. Frequency coverage is 1.8 Mhz. through 30 Mhz. continuous. Frequency control is excellent with crystal control like stability. With all of this going for it, you must wonder how and American made rig with all these qualities can be built and sold for \$375.00. As you might expect, they are hard to find. A check with the Ham Station indicates that they are rare and none are in stock at this time. (Amateur Electronics does not list any in their latest QST ads). I have some sources and will be able to obtain a limited number of these fine rigs for the discounted price of \$229.00. If interested, please send me a check for \$75.00 with the balance of \$154.00 to be paid on delivery within four months. Almost forgot, this rig even has a built in power supply.

73 W9FHA

P.S. If You can't wait four months, I will sell mine for the list price of \$375.00

## WEATHER NET ACTIVE

Recently many of you participated in a mock tornado drill. The experience came in handy only a few days later when the Weather Net was activated due to a large number of level 5 and level 6 cells coming into the Tri-State area from the Illinois and Kentucky areas. Over 60 stations from all areas of the Tri-State checked into the emergency net. Due to the presence of Amateurs in some of the affected areas; the Weather Service could

get direct first-hand information on what was in these cells. Since conditions could be confirmed Tornado Warnings did not have to be issued. Without the Amateurs the Weather Service would have had to issue Tornado Warnings; This is similar to crying "Wolf"; when the real thing is coming it is old hat by then. Norm Carrol of the WX Service would like to thank all who helped for a "Job Well Done".

## Club Jackets

Club Jackets are in and are now at Siegels getting the Names, Calls and Club Logo sewn on. With luck they will be ready by this month's meeting. So; If you haven't sent your check for the jacket you ordered. Get out your pen and send your check to:

Charlie Sartore, N9DYE  
709 East Virginia Street  
Evansville, IN 47711

The Jackets and Logo's look great! It will help identify you as an Amateur Radio Operator and should get the Club some good publicity when we are working events such as the Freedom Festival etc. I know who wears a Jacket in the 100 degree heat of July; Ok how about the Drum & Bugle Corp. in the RAIN! It even looks GREAT just hanging in your closet.

## ADVANCE RESERVATIONS

INSIDE TABLES \$7.50 EACH

OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET \$3.00

(Bring your own Tables)

## DEALERS

## FLEA MARKET

Mail Advance Reservations to:  
**MIKE ANDERSON, KA9LQM**  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732  
Day Phone (812) 424-2306  
Evenings (812) 476-5572

YES, T.A.R.S., I'd like advance reservations for your 1985 Hamfest

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ tables or \_\_\_\_\_ booths for \$\_\_\_\_\_

Admission Buttons at \$3.00 each.

Amount of Remittance enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Area ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_





# SPARKS

## Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

MAY 85

Volume XXVI No. V



### OFFICERS:

President Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE  
Vice Pres. Carolyn Anderson, KA9LMO  
Secretary Elvin Reed, WB9VSQ  
Treasurer Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

### DIRECTORS:

Blanche Elpers, KA9EIV  
Bill Spencer, WD9HUK  
Ralph Waldo, K9STX  
Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Charlie Finke, WB9NQD  
Mort Silverman, W9GJ

### SPARKS EDITOR:

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572



from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

TO:

If you have any questions or articles for SPARKS contact the Editor.

# HAMFEST SUNDAY MAY 19, 1985

May 19th. and HAMFEST '85 is less than two weeks away. It is too late to get a reserved seat for the ARRL/VE testing; however a limited number of walk-ins will be taken that morning. Seats are on a first come first served basis. Walk-ins should be at the Hamfest site by 8:30 AM to allow time for necessary paperwork. You will need a photocopy of your present licence and the original if upgrading. Special thanks to John Norrick, KD9JB, and the rest of the VE Team for a job well done. This is the first test on the Hamfest Site.

Great prizes this year! Your \$3.00 General Admission button is good on some of the hourly prizes. In addition we will be giving away a cordless telephone on the buttons. Additional hourly prize tickets will be available at the front admission table. Grand Prizes will include:

First Prize is a YAESU 757-GX All Band All Mode Mobile Transceiver  
Second Prize is a VHS VIDEO RECORDER  
Third Prize is a KENWOOD TH21-AT 2 meter Handheld "The latest in miniature gear" (See product review by KA9RRQ)

### Special Forums include:

(1.) Doc Miller, WB4AOH from Owensboro will present a program on ATV.

(2.) Norm Carroll of the National Weather Service will present a program on Skywarn and is very interested in meeting the Amateurs in his service area. This now includes 46 counties in Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky.

Continued on Page Two

### APOLOGY de W9FHA

The demand for Viking II CDC's was overwhelming! Too bad the E.F. Johnson Co. stopped making them over 25 years ago. Everything in my April Fool Article was the whole truth. I have ben using the rig for several weeks and have received glowing reports from around the world. NO LIE! I do apologize for causing you to worry about purchasing a new rig with all of the Viking's features.

THEREFORE; I, John Small, W9FHA Do Hereby Promise to NEVER .... NEVER, write another tongue-in-cheek article for Sparks again. \*

Signed John D. Small  
W9FHA

\* Unless it is for an April Edition

P.S. I sold the rig, stop calling please.



# Chatter

By the time you are reading this "The Hamfest" will be just around the corner. Mike (KA9LQM) still needs a lot of help so while you are thinking about it give him a call at 424-2306 Days or 476-5572 Nights to make sure you get the job you want. I have been talking to some of the "Old Timers" and as near as I can find out this will be our 38th Annual "Hamfest". If anybody knows anymore about this give me a call before Hamfest time.

Delores and I went to Dayton this year. I never saw so much stuff together in one place before. They had \$42,000 Dollars worth of radio equipment donated to them. They were giving away 2 meter mobile transceivers & 40 meter beams for hourly prizes. I am just now getting things back into their right perspective. We won a 5" Black & White TV with AM & FM radio which was worth the trip over there. But I still had a let down feeling because I didn't win anything else. They called hundreds of numbers in the last hour before the final drawing and we didn't even come close. Now that I am back to normal and looking back we didn't do bad at all in the winning department and my legs are all rested. I am already looking forward to next year; that will be my year. Don't forget monthly meeting May 9th at 7:30 PM American Red Cross building.

73 Jim KA9KRE

## DEALERS FLEA MARKET

### HAMFEST CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

(3.) Mike KA9LQM will present a short forum on the adaptation of various computers to Ham radio use. Also sign-ups and determination of the material which will be taught in a TARS computer class later in the year.

(4.) An ARRL forum will be presented. The exact material covered is not known at press time; however it will not be a Traffic Forum.

(5.) One of the area's TVRO dealers will present a forum on the latest advances and equipment in this fast growing field.

(6.) There will also be a few surprises in store for the Hamfest; no details you will have to come to find out.

### HAMFEST HELP NEEDED

HELP! This is the last call for Hamfest Help. Elvin still needs help in the Kitchen with serving food. This year only food cooked by Elvin, WB9VSQ and his Gang; NO CATERED FOOD!

Mort, W9GJ is in need of volunteers for manning the front door. Also we will need someone to check buttons at the back door. If you can work an hour or two give Mort a call.

Roy Cloukey, KA9IWP will be taking care of the Outdoor Flea Market again this year.

Delores Shoptaugh, KA9KRD will be in charge of the BINGO for the ladies. She is still looking for one or two helpers. Give her a call at 867-2934 if you wish to help or if you have BINGO Prizes to donate.

Also a big thanks to our Friends at The Ham Station and Memphis Amateur Electronics for their help in obtaining the major prizes this year. Support the folks who have supported our club.

### ADVANCE RESERVATIONS

Mail Advance Reservations to:  
**MIKE ANDERSON, KA9LQM**  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

Day Phone (812) 424-2306  
Evenings (812) 476-5572

## FEEDBACK

The Dayton Chronicles

DAYTON! Just the one word conjures up fantastic images for our imaginations. Junk, new equipment, junk, prizes, junk, new contacts and the flea market -- where the junk lives!

There's no doubt about it, in the world of Amateur Radio Dayton is the event of the year -- the mecca for all handi-talkies. This annual pilgrimage occurs every May and certainly can be considered a rite of spring for hams everywhere.

LQM and I are lucky folk - for we stumbled onto a trip to Dayton with a fellow club member who is a pilot. Mort, W9GJ mentioned he planned to fly over and would be happy to take passengers in exchange for petrol. Mike & I jumped on that the way the bass strikes the Ronco Mr. Fisherman's Folding Rod on TV. What a bargain - a trip to Dayton for the price of driving our gas guzzler one way!

So we began to make our plans. Mike made out a shopping/wish list that filled a suitcase. Then he remembered a terrible fact. Airplanes only haul limited weight. He frantically tried to pare down his list. When he couldn't cut another item he turned sneaky as only a Junk Addict could.

Continued on Page Four



Suddenly my husband was religious about his diet and he watched my calorie consumption as well. He showed me all the articles on obesity, exercise and health.

He devised a exercise routine for me that was quite unique. He put two loaded shopping bags in my hands, a full pack on my back and had me weave in and out of crowds in shopping malls. He claimed it would build upper body strength and heighten my agility.

I finally caught on when I found some of his scribblings that looked like formulas. It turned out that for every pound we took off he could add a pound and a half of junk to the planes cargo. He was also trying to ready me as a pack animal.

We had an amicable chat with one of my hands containing the evidence and the other a frying pan. He agreed he had gotten a little out of control and promised to behave the rest of the seven days till D-Day.

The week passed quickly and then 24 hours from the big day the weather turned sour. Thunderstorms were possible for the coming day. We knew enough about flying to understand that taking a plane into a thunderstorm is like going over Niagra Falls in a rubber raft. If any pieces are found they are immediately forwarded to the looney bin.

He paced the floor half the night and was glued to the weather channel. The stress was beginning to show as he tried to do an Indian rain dance backwards. I then called on a dear friend, Mr. J. Daniels, for some Southern Comfort for poor LQM and put him to bed.

Since we had to be at the airport at 7 to meet the pilot and check the weather Mike was up at 4 AM

being discussedly cheerful. This is the same person who uses Dagwood Bumstead as a role model. I swear some mornings I have to haul him out of bed with a crane.

We arrived at Dress Regional before even the feathered flyers were up. He had a nice path in the carpet from pacing when Mort arrived and went to check on the weather. You know a grown man looks awfully funny crossing all his fingers, then his arms and legs while mumbling "Star light Star bright - I wish I may I wish I might But it worked -- it would be an instrument flight but we were going to Dayton! We spent 15 minutes untangling LQM's limbs and then we took off. We were on our way to Dayton!

continued next month  
73 KA9LMO

## 1985 TARS ROSTER

Eldon B. Shirley  
Dallas Fickas  
William Russell  
Bob Bengert  
John W. Dilges  
Geoffrey Pruden  
Mike McNeely  
Ed Folz  
Ray Massingham  
Paul Wurtz  
Morris Johnson  
George Robinson  
Kearnie Smith  
The Waldo's K9STX  
William Beauchamp  
The Dawson's KA9IJW  
The Spencers WD9HUK  
The Dick's WA9QDZ  
Gary Schriefer  
Blanche M. Elpers  
Jeff Merrow  
The Hartke's WA9LDD  
Roy Cloukey  
The Shoptaugh's KA9KRE  
Carolyn Anderson  
Mike Anderson  
John Reising  
Steve Knight

AE9Z  
AK9G  
K9GKR  
K9HCE  
K9HCK  
K9HVI  
K9JQS  
K9JSK  
K9PAR  
K9PKG  
K9QLB  
K9STV  
KA4URS  
KA9ANP  
KA9CPE  
KA9DZW  
KA9ECY  
KA9EIV  
KA9EYL  
KA9HDQ  
KA9IWP  
KA9KRD  
KA9LMO  
KA9LQM  
KA9PWH  
KA9RRQ

Terry K. Moe  
Norman Young  
Bruce McKibben  
Chet Russel  
George Utley  
Lloyd Wienert  
Woody Wilson  
John Norrick  
John C. Van Vorst  
Norman McDonald  
John Bennett  
Herb Muth  
Dan Mitchell  
Ken Marlin  
Harold Muensterman  
Michael Knott  
Vance Foster  
Charlie Sartore  
Tom Donavon  
Jim Cavera  
David R. Wood  
Ken K. Parr  
Bev Howard  
Al J. Wilber  
Clifford McGuyer  
John D. Small  
Mort Silverman  
Kenneth Young  
Darwin Covert  
Mike Townsend  
La Rue Cleveland  
Les La Vanchy  
Bernard Anderson  
The McWilliams W9NBV  
Wilbur Weisling  
Lowell Goodson  
Hank Galbraith  
Albert Schoettlin  
Stirman Rowland  
Paul Dilley  
Albert Arendt  
Paul A. Rice  
Charlie Peabody  
James Raessler  
Ken L. Small  
John W. Lenn  
Arthur Mengon, Jr.  
Robert J. Head  
Hal Wilson  
Robert Barrett  
Fr. Paul Kiener  
Charles Finke  
Gordon Connley  
Frank L. Hirt  
Ed Estes  
Rick Harper  
Elvin Reed  
Thomas Hale  
Richard Neukam  
Mike Wilson  
Jim Moore  
H. Lowell Barton  
The Marsh's W9NJE  
Noel Burroughs  
Earl Pfettscher

KA9SXC  
KA9SXG  
KA9SYQ  
KA9TBA  
KA9TBE  
KB9NR  
KB9SK  
KD9JB  
KD9JZ  
KY9I  
N4XI  
N9ALX  
N9APA  
N9CUK  
N9DEO  
N9DEV  
N9DOR  
N9DYE  
N9EGI  
N9EVY  
W9AJR  
W9ANG  
W9BC  
W9BPE  
W9CM  
W9FHA  
W9GJ  
W9JTU  
W9KVE  
W9KXP  
W9LBS  
W9LXA  
W9MOI  
W9NBW  
W9OVB  
W9RBV  
W9RDJ  
W9UMS  
W9ZZY  
WA4PXE  
WA9BPP  
WA9BYZ  
WA9EQU  
WA9FUJ  
WA9HGA  
WA9IVE  
WA9TER  
WA9ZLQ  
WB9FNN  
WB9LCA  
WB9MRX  
WB9NQD  
WB9OKI  
WB9QDR  
WB9RWB  
WB9SAN  
WB9VSQ  
WD9BKK  
WD9DBZ  
WD9DKB  
WD9EDH  
WD9FZQ  
WD9HUN  
WD9HUR  
WN9HRB



## PRODUCT REVIEW / KENWOOD TH-21AT de KA9RRQ

As we become more seasoned, most of us learn quickly that life has a tendency to produce an endless series of compromises. You know the story, if you're intrigued by one nice feature on something, you inevitably have to give up something else that's equally attractive. It seems we can't have it both ways - right? Well, once in a while exceptions do cross our path.

I discovered one when I bought the Kenwood TH-21AT. My requirement was for a COMPACT two meter hand-held that, despite its size, produced exceptional audio, reasonable battery life, full coverage of the two meter band, and a respectable operating range. In the four months I've owned the radio it's certainly met or exceeded these tough requirements.

As mentioned earlier the reason I bought the rig was for its size. It's important to keep in mind because we're tempted to compare it to other larger hand-helds offering more features which we shouldn't do. Apples to apples remember! With this in mind, here is a brief review of my experiences with the TH-21AT.

### POWER AND RANGE

A recent review of the rig in April "QST" (page 47) stated the radio produced two watts in the high power setting. Kenwood's advertising claims one watt. Vance Foster, N9DOR tested his TH-21AT at 1.3 watts. I tend to agree with the one watt rating. The low power setting produces 150 milliwatts. At the conclusion of this article you'll find a chart illustrating my operating experience in the high and low power setting from the second floor of my apartment located near the 4-H Fairgrounds area North of Evansville.

### BATTERY LIFE

Using the 1800 mAH battery that is standard on the rig and the low power setting, I've never exhausted the battery. Recently on vacation I enjoyed QSO's lasting one to two hours (low power setting) with no sign of battery failure. Sorry, I've not used the higher power feature enough to comment.

### AUDIO

The audio is exceptional for a radio this size. I received very strong signal quality reports from several stations. No problems here.

### MINOR PROBLEMS

About the only complaint I might offer is with the push to talk switch. The "feel" of it seems a bit vague. Occasionally I thought I'd activated the transmitter only to discover the small red transmit light wasn't on. This might be a minor problem unique to my rig only however. Also we're fortunate that the rig is easy to figure out. The instructions supplied were written by a person who must have learned English watching old John Wayne movies.

I hope this brief summary is helpful to you. Remember, to check your April "QST" if you wish more technical data on the radio. If you have questions please give me a call. Steve Knight, KA9RRQ

REPEATER	LOCATION	WORKABLE HIGH POWER	WORKABLE LOW POWER
146.19/79	Evansville, IN	Yes	Yes
147.15/75	Evansville, IN	Yes	Yes
146.37/97	Henderson, KY	Yes	No
144.81/5.41	Princeton, IN	Yes	No
147.075/675	Boonville, IN	Yes	Marginal





# SPARKS

Tri-State Amateur Radio Society  
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

VOLUME XXVI NO. VII JUNE 1985

July

85



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## SPARKS EDITOR:

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Mike Anderson  
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2232 East Powell  
Evansville  
47715

1985  
W9A1N

IN

If you have any questions or articles for SPARKS contact the Editor.

## KRE'S KORNER

Well the year is half-way gone and hopefully so is the bad weather. We have had the weather net activated quite a few times so far this year and luckily no real bad storms in this area. Thru your assistance, we have correctly identified severe weather as such, and not as tornados like some of the general public called in. As I have said before the radar at National weather Service can see bad weather but it can't tell what is in it until somebody reports it. So THANKS to all of you for your help on the net.

At the last meeting we voted to have our next Hamfest at Bauer's Grove just north of the 4-H Center. This is going to take a lot of planning and a lot of work to let everybody know we have changed locations. N9DYE, Charlie Sartore, has agreed to be the next Hamfest Chairman and has made up some advance flyers to pass out at coming hamfests. Lets all pitch in and give him a hand. This will be our 39th Hamfest coming up and thereprobably aren't many clubs that have had that many. We can have the largest Hamfest south of Dayton.

The weather held off for us on "Field Day". I sent the Field Day message to Blanche 'KA9EIV' and she copied it 100%. I'll let her tell what happened. Be sure and ask her what happened but be prepared for some wild answers. We had a great time. John, W9FHA, worked hard to set it all up and I think it paid off. We had over 7000 points which should put us up pretty high in the scoring. Look out next year.

Mike 'KA9LQM' & Carolyn 'KA9LMO' went on vacation so Blanche 'KA9EIV' has accepted the job of putting 'Sparks' together and getting it in the mail this month. When you ask her about the Field Day message, thank her for the July Sparks.

continued on Page 8



# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

As I write this only three days to VACATION. Ye Olde Editor is headed to the DX Land of Florida. I hope to work from one of the rare Grid Squares in EL land. 99% of one of the grid squares is in the middle of the Gulf; the other 1% is uninhabited by any resident Hams.

Hopefully Carolyn, KA9LMO will not have to save me from a shark this year. She will be looking for new material for her column so beware in August.

July will be a very active month with Drums on the Ohio the 8th. The Freedom Festival Parade is the 13th. in the evening. On the 13th. & 14th. during the day TARS will again be working the riverfront helping the ARC and the boat races. If you are interested in helping with any of the events contact the coordinators listed below:

Drums on Ohio	W9UMS
Parade	W9FHA
Thunder on Ohio	N9DYE

Field Day is also today; as of now looks like a wet one for John, W9FHA and the gang at FD. They have several sky-wires up including a tower and beam. You should have seen Harold, N9DEO making an Arm Strong Rotor about 9 PM last night. Need to invent a 12 volt battery powered one I guess. I wonder what happened to all the old prop pitch motors that were around in the past.

At least they are under a shelter so won't get wet. They may have to have a few more 807's only for the medicinal purpose of warding off pneumonia.

Blanche will be taking care of business with Sparks this month. The July program is scheduled for a Traffic Program.

73 Mike KA9LQM

\*\*\*\*\*

## ARES ACTIVITIES

June has been a busy month.

June 2 thunder storm watch--7:24 pm to 11:06 pm WA9IVE at Nat'l WX Ser.  
KA9LQM base station net control K9STX relay

June 4 thunder storm watch--2:08 pm to 4:35 pm WA9IVE & K8GIK at Nat'l WX Ser. K9STX relay

June 9 11:00 pm to 12:26 am KA9EIV relay to Nat'l WX Ser.

June 11 Demonstration for Christian Co. Ky. EOC--wa9IVE & K8GIK at Nat'l WX Ser. K9STX, KA9EIV & KA4IBY relay

June 11 thunder storm watch 2:18 to 4:20 pm WA9IVE & K8GIK at Nat'l WX Ser. W9GJ net control with K9STX & KA9EIV relay

June 23 thunder storm watch 4:18 to 8:26 pm KA9LQM Nat'l WX Ser.  
WA9LDZ net control

June 24 thunder storm watch 2:25 pm to 7:34 pm KA9KRE & K8GIK at Nat'l WX Ser with KA9EIV & WA9LDD net controls

June 29 Balloon Race 6:00 pm W9UMS--K9STX

Many thanks for the use of the following repeaters during the WX emergencies: 146.34/94 146.07/67 146.28/88 146.01/61 146.16/76

The Evansville office of National Weather Service fully appreciates the many hours spent by Amateur Radio operators in relaying weather conditions from around the Tri-State to them.



TRI-STATE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC.

1984 AUDIT

By W9CM

#	ACCOUNT	GAIN	LOSS
200	Membership dues	\$868.00	
	Repeater dues	702.00	
300	Hamfest		
	Food	138.70	
	Prizes	710.96	
	Misc.	591.67	
301	Emergency Preparedness and Field Day		\$ 38.20
302	Red Cross		550.00
303	National Weather Ser.	-0-	-0-
400	Sparks		526.65
500	Repeater (19/79)		20.23
501	Repeater (75/15)		849.50
600	Amateur Radio Classes	60.00	
700	Insurance		245.00
800	Auction	47.53	
800	Picnic (Recreation)		131.00
800	Bingo (Recreation)		70.40
800	Christmas Party (Recreation)		493.08
900	Miscellaneous (income & expense)		
	Interest income	205.35	
	ARRL memberships	8.00	
	Meeting Refreshments		167.40
	Foundation & Memorial Gifts		176.25
	Gin Pole		75.00
	Treasurer's Briefcase		62.94
	Misc.	<u>3332.21</u>	<u>45.29</u>
		<del>\$333.22</del>	<del>\$3450.94</del>
	Net Gain or (Loss) for 1984		\$ 118.73

\*\*\*\*\*

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MAY 1985

Balance May 1, 1985 ----- \$3382.11

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Dues-----	\$ 118.00	Refreshments-----	\$ 9.47
Interest-----	15.77	Sparks-----	30.00
Club Jackets-----	36.80	Memorials-----	25.00
Misc.-----	11.37	Misc.-----	5.04
Hamfest-----	4022.88	Hamfest-----	879.97
Total	\$4204.82	Total	\$ 949.48

Balance May 31, 1985 ----- \$6637.45



# 1985 HAMFEST REPORT

## INCOME

Kitchen-----	\$ 889.80
Prizes-----	1337.40
Buttons-----	1608.00
Misc.-----	429.00
TOTAL---	<u>\$4264.20</u>

EST. PROFIT FOR 1985 HAMFEST  
\$1357.50

## EXPENSES

Kitchen:	Food & Drink----	\$ 329.80
	Advance Change	300.00
Prizes:	2m Radio-----	179.00
	VCR-----	299.97
	HF Rig-----	450.00
	Advance Change	200.00
Misc:	Ads-&ST & CQ	94.90
	Buttons-----	228.00
	Trophies-----	8.00
	Publicity Postage	22.00
	4-H Rental-----	650.00
	Raffle Tickets---	54.43
	Flyers-----	66.18
	Shipping VCR----	4.42
	Advance Change	50.00
	Total-----	<u>\$2906.70</u>

\*\*\*\*\*

## PRAISE FOR VE PROGRAM

### SPARKS

Tri-State Amateur Radio Society  
Evansville, In

Dear Everyone:

I want to thank everyone who made it possible for me to advance to the Extra Class license. The VE program has been good for me. I went to Terre Haute in March and passed the Advanced test after being a General for 30 years and, of course, slipped through the Extra exam at your Hamfest a month ago. I really appreciate the time and effort expended by everyone. Unfortunately I live some distance from Evansville so cannot be as active as I would like to in the Club. I would like to volunteer to assist in any way in giving exams or whatever for the remainder of the time we will be in Indiana. I will be at the Field Day operations at the FOP facility this coming weekend and hope to see everyone there. I will be in Saturday afternoon and hope to operate CW on the "late" shift until sometime Sunday.

Many Tnx and 73

Paul J. Menard, W7KZK  
St. Meinrad, In

PS: Paul can really make that straight key talk and made many contacts.

\*\*\*\*\*

When the space shuttle Challenger goes into orbit Jan. 22, 1986, an Evansville native maybe on board. Robert Foerster, one of the original 11,114 teachers who applied, made it to the semi-finals and as of this writing is one of the ten finalists.

While in school at Harrison High, Robert was a student of John, WA9IVE. John has been following his progress with much 'quiet' enthusiasm. Besides having a prize former pupil, John is now the owner of a Cadillac--a 1941 Fleetwood Touring Sedan.

\*\*\*\*\*

The members of TARS extend sincerest condolences to Al Wilber, W9BPE, on the death of his Mother, Eva Wilber, June 30.



MENTAL HEALTH NOTICE

Tired of forty over-crowded channels? Think three miles is big time DX? Tired of your children being exposed to the entire lexicon of Bartlet's familiar obscenities? Have you come to believe that 10-4 describes the I.Q. range of the rest of the people using the radio? If this is you, or, someone you know, then take heart, the wonderful world of amateur radio awaits you.

There is a catch however, you have to know something, and God forbid, maybe even have to work a bit to become a member of this elite fraternity.

And that is the point of this article. Bob (AK9G) Bengert will be once again offering one of his world famous, guaranteed to pass (almost) novice classes. But it gets even better because this time Bob will be assisted by Terry (KA9SXC) Moe, a recognized (at least by himself) expert in the field of amateur radio.

The classes, which cover the code and theory necessary to get (with ease) the novice ticket, will be given at the Oaklyn Library located at the corner of Oak Hill Road and Lynch Road 3820 Oak Hill Road starting at 7:00 PM Tuesday September the 17th and continuing for ten weeks. Novice Tests will be given at the end of the class for all who survive.

Cost is a mere \$25.00 per person, or \$20.00 per person if more than one family member participates. That works out to less than \$3.00 per week, far less than you would spend on aspirin and valium if you spend any time trying to communicate on the C.B.

Materials include: Your very own copy of Tune in the World complete with practice tapes plus a few goodies of Bengert and Moe's own design.

So do yourself or maybe someone you know a favor and let them know about this great opportunity.

For further information call:

Bob Bengert	479-3850 (Home) or 464-4576 (Work)
Terry Moe	473-1056 (Home) or 464-4571 (Work)

See you there!



Now is my big chance. LQM is occupied at the moment with the weather net. We were on the way home when the weather net was activated Sunday afternoon. Being mobile he volunteered to go to the airport and handle the net from that end.

At that moment the wheels in my head, the sneaky ones, started spinning. With him occupied for several hours I could sneak over to Tri-State Aero and find out about flying lessons.

A gracious fellow sneak gave me the information and plans began to formulate in the gray matter. Flight lessons are in the \$2000 - \$2500 neighborhood. I knew I would have to piecemeal the project and sneak small sums out of the bank and into my personal stash. She told me about a similar situation in her life and how she started her fund with a phony traffic ticket. EUEKA, the bells rang!!!

First I found some official looking paper at the airport and left LQM a note on his car that he had violated a federal parking area and a \$50.00 fine was exacted. I knew that a diabetic in a stressful situation needing his supper would swallow a lot more than food.

So as I helped him down the stairs, 2 hours past his dinner time, I showed him the "Ticket" and spoke of Wolf's Bar-B-Que in the same breath. I told him I would take care of everything. He tried to argue a little but I told him an investigation into the "Ticket" would delay supper. Whimpering he acquiesced and I led him to the car while he was mumbling that they had violated his Sky-Warn sticker. I soothed his fevered brow & took him straight to Wolfs.

I HAD MY FIRST \$50.00 FOR THE FLIGHT FUND! You cannot begin to imagine all of the unexpected expenses that cropped up in the next few weeks! First there was my registration fee for FHA, Female Hams of America. Uh, please don't tell him the only FHA around is our past president. Then I got this great deal on coax and bought a roll with delivery 3 months from now -- he has a short memory at times.

Next he received a fine from operation city beautiful for having a QRM - that's - Quadrant Real Messy. He has his tower in pieces laying next to a compost heap. Either alone would meet city standards for a QRT - Quadrant Real Tidy. But together it's a No-No. I told him this with the most serious look I could muster. He almost gave me a argument on that one so I made a fast exit telling him I'd take care of it.

My stash was beginning to pile up but I did need to add to it. So next I sent off for Uncle Elmer's No Fail CW Course. I told LQM how a fellow ham had told me about Uncle Elmer's amazing system for learning CW called the think system. (Ever see the Music Man? - and they say you can't learn anything by watching the babble box!) Thanks Professor Hill.

LQM is a little sensitive about all his trips to testing sites for the CW test to upgrade to General so this one was a snap. Remember readers - a good way into the wallet is pampering the make ego! I told him that Uncle Elmer would change CW from "Chains & Whips" to "Code Wizard". I could see visions of 20 WPM in his head as I wrote the check.

We are shortly leaving on vacation and I can foresee a lot of unexpected expenses cropping up. He is always unconscious about 3 to 5 AM when we drive all night. I'll lift \$75.00 from his wallet and tell him I had to pay a speeding ticket in Alabama. I was born with lead in my right foot so he'll believe that one with ease. Not many wives have their car personalized with a "Mach Meter"; he gave it to me Christmas '75.

By the time we return from Florida I should have enough to begin my lessons. I can do some of this on my day off during the week but I have a "flight plan" for the evenings I'll need for ground school. I'm going to tell him I've been elected president of the local FHA chapter.

Hey, if you talk to LQM after July 4th mention what a great organization FHA is - also tell him about a friend who can copy 50 WPM thanks to Uncle Elmer.

73's for any help you can give to me with the above. I remain your QSL - Qualified Sneaky Lady. Classes begin in the fall for those interested!



SECRETARY'S REPORT

TARS meeting of June 13 called to order at 7:40 pm by Pres. KA9KRE-- Meeting was held at Bauer's Grove, Darnstadt Rd., with 35 members and 2 guests present.

Introductions were made.

KA9LQM, Mike, gave a report on Hamfest with an estimated profit of \$1384.50.

Cliff McGuyer, W9CM, was presented a plaque in recognition as Auditor of TARS.

John Small, W9FHA, gave report on up-coming Field Day, June 22 & 23-- set up antennas Friday evening--operate CW QRP--2 stations and 1 novice FOP Pal Camp on Happe Rd.

KA9KRE reported the Red Cross is getting a Ten-Tec Corsair--also INCERT will purchase a Corsair--need help with antennas.

John, W9FHA, requested help for the Freedom Festival Parade July 13 at 6:30 pm. Needs 2 more operators with HTs and the loan of 2 more HTs.

Charlie, N9DYE, requested help for Thunder on the Ohio--need 5 operators on Saturday July 13 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and July 14 Sunday from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm.

For help with Drums on the Ohio July 8 contact Hal, WB9FNN, or Al W9UMS.

WN9HRB, Earl, expressed his thanks to KA9KRE, WA9IVE and K8GIK for the amateur radio demonstration on OCED.

Next came refreshments of coffee, donuts and soft drinks.

Mike Bruce, KA4BCM, Owensboro presented a very interesting and informative program on earthquakes, particularly the New Madrid Fault.

Jim Bauer of Bauer's Grove showed architect's drawings of their proposed expansion and announced rental rates. A show of hands, overwhelmingly, approved Bauer's Grove as the 1986 Hamfest site.

Meeting adjourned 9:10 pm

KA9EIV

Acting Secretary.

\*\*\*\*\*

HAMFEST SCHEDULES

July 14---Indls  
July 14 LaPorte  
Aug. 4 Angola  
Aug. 11 Marion  
Aug. 18 Lafayette  
Aug. 18 warren, Oh.  
Aug. 24 Argos  
Aug. 25 Danville, Il  
Nov. 9 Owensboro, Ky.  
Sept, 8 Sara

VE test sessions

July 13 Pike Co. ARC at  
Oakland City College  
Contact W9UL Dick Chesser  
Winslow, In. Walk-ins  
  
July 13 Owensboro, Ky  
Contact KA4BCM Walk-ins  
  
Aug. 17 Evansville, In  
Contact KD9JB walk-ins  
111 2nd Ave--Oakland City  
47660



KRE'S KORNER cont'd

It was good to see some faces at the last meeting that haven't been there for sometime. Mike Bruce, KA4ECM, had a real interesting program for us.

Program for the July 11th meeting will be on traffic handling and a film on a new type of airplane. Blanche, KA9EIV, & Mort, W9GJ, will be handling this one so come on out and lets see if Mort has found a plane that will automatically lower its wheels before landing.

SEE YOU AT THE AMERICAN RED CROSS BLDG. JULY 11th

73 Jim, KA9KRE

Editor's note: If KA9KRE couldn't hear me on 'dummy load', now come a 5 land station came back to me?

\*\*\*\*\*

---FIELD DAY 1985---

Field Day 1985 was another success for TARS!

We got off to a slow start with only a handful of people to begin set-up on Friday. Saturday was not much better when the time came to begin operation. By Saturday evening we had a good group and they finished strong. We operated with batteries, CW and 10 watts of input power. Antennas included two ZEPPs and one Franklin for all bands, plus a 40-10 meter A-4 beam. Rigs were a TEN-TEC Omni A, Triton, Century 22 and an ICOM 735.

Thanks to Tom, N9EGI,--Bob, KA9TML,--and the Ham Station for the rigs. Blanche, KA9EIV, contributed 300 points, bonus, for publicity, SEC message and ARRL message. Harold, N9DEO, earned us 100 bonus points with his Natural Power Bicycle Generator set-up. Mort, W9GJ, earned an Emmy for his Star Role on WEHT News. Paul, W7KZK, showed us how to really pound brass with his straight key.

Lots of new and old faces helped us to rack up a total of 7320 points. Breakdown is as follows:

154 QSOs on 80      164 on 40      192 on 20      116 on 15

33 QSOs on 10 with 23 Novice QSOs for a total of 682.

CW contacts count 2 points each giving us 1364. This we could multiply by 5 for having DC input less than 10 watts making a total of 6820 plus bonus of 500 for a grand total of 7320.

Like a good army, food was important. A special thanks to Jim, KA9KRE, and Delores, KA9KRD, for the gourmet steak dinner on Saturday night. Jim's Steak Speciale on Sunday was EXTRAORDINARY!!! Owensboro may serve ice cream but we have our own secret menu that gives ordinary operators the strength to do what needs to be done.

73 John, W9FHA

In 1982 TARS placed 6th in a field of 54 with 8200 points as a 2-A Batt.  
In 1983 TARS placed 7th in a field of 17 with 1426 points as 2-A Comm.  
In 1984 TARS placed 11th in a field of 43 with 4505 points as 2-A Batt.

Thanks to Bill, WD9HUK, for making the copies of Sparks , and to Ken, WA9HGA, for helping with the folding and stamping. Next month your Editor will be back with his oyster stories. DON'T FORGET NEXT MEETING AT AMERICAN RED CROSS JULY 11, 7:30 PM.





# SPARKS

## Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

Volume XXVI No. IX

September 1985



### OFFICERS:

President Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE  
Vice Pres. Carolyn Anderson, KA9LMO  
Secretary Elvin Reed, WB9VSQ  
Treasurer Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

### DIRECTORS:

Blanche Elpers, KA9EIV  
Bill Spencer, WD9HUK  
Ralph Waldo, K9STX  
Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Charlie Finke, WB9NQD  
Mort Silverman, W9GJ

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If you have any questions or articles for SPARKS contact the Editor.

## ROM (Ramblin Old Man)

The Owensboro Amateur Radio Club will be putting a GLB packet digi-peater on the air within the next two or three weeks. The 2 meter rig is on a simplex frequency of 145.01 with the beams aimed at Louisville; this will allow Evansville packeteers to QSO all the way to Columbus, Ohio via a system of digi-peaters.

How does this system work, you ask. The hard wired packet interface uses a computer protocol to communicate with other packet systems without operator assistance. Using a computer terminal the operator tells the packet interface what callsigns (existing packet systems to interconnect) to get to the final destination. The operator then inputs a message for the last station on the list. In a burst of tone a fraction of a second long the packet interface contacts the next system. That system responds that it has received the list of callsigns, then it links the next system on the list to the first. This continues on until all the systems are linked at which time the message is transmitted and relayed. The destination system sends an acknowledgement which is relayed back to the station of origin. To keep things neat a packet only hears things with its callsign in the preamble unless the operator tells it otherwise. In this way a single digi-peater can handle around 20 QSO's all at the same time, actually the bursts are at different times; however the packet system used all of the space between messages to advantage. The result is automated message handling with 100% Error-Free Traffic. The packet system keeps retransmitting a packet until it receives the acknowledgement of reception as sent.

Continued on Page 4

## Look What's Up!

There will be no regular meeting this month; instead we are having the Annual T.A.R.S. Emergency Communications Conference on Saturday Sept. 14th.

Location is the same as last year; Jerry's Church just North of Darmstadt. If you need directions someone will be on the repeater to help with talk-in.

### COMMING EVENTS

The October meeting will feature a program on NASA presented by Dr. Kenneth Poole from U of E. This should be a very interesting one.

November will be a program and demonstration of Packet Radio. Come see the newest in state of the art communications.





## KRE'S KORNER

Summer is almost over! I have had to work every Saturday since Field Day and I am ready for a vacation. I have the traps wound for the antennas for the Red Cross Building and the State Police Post; maybe sometime between now and cold weather we can get them on the air again and be ready for the snow this winter. Speaking of getting on the air has anybody heard Blanche "KA9EIV" lately on 3910? She has a new inverted "V" up and she is talking to places she didn't know existed before.

August was a pretty dead month. We never had any activities going so there isn't a lot to write about. We have our Annual Picnic coming up the 14th. of September; so don't forget to turn in your reservation. We need these so we will know how much food to order; Co. Sanders is going to cater this one again so we should have plenty.

John "W9FHA", Paul "K9JSK" and Mort "W9GJ" have agreed to serve on the nominating committee this year so if you have any ideas or if you are interested in running for an office get in touch with one of them and help make their job easier. We have picked up a few new members that might be interested in serving.. Talk it up at the Picnic.

Don't forget the September meeting will be the Picnic on Saturday instead of Thursday. See You There.

73 Jim "KA9KRE"

## FEEDBACK de KA9LMO THE CHRONICLES

Well we were on our way to the sunny shores of Florida's Gulf Coast. LQM hauled me out of the bed at 4 am that morning with a disgustingly cheerful smile and announced it was safari time. Personally, I feel the proper time of the AM to rise is 11:59, much before that and I don't shine at all.

We headed out and after a long drive stopped at the Henderson Busler's for breakfast - so what - breaks keep you fresh. I've heard that from REACT and since those folks are never wrong who am I to dispute them.

About 70 miles out of Nashville Mike needed a break so I took over the driving chores. He woke up in the middle of the Nashville interstate system in the midst of a kamikaze run. If memory serves me correctly he had much the same look on a giant roller coaster I drug him to one summer day in St. Louis. The same green color jogged my memory.

Later that evening at the Alabama state line we stopped for supper at a restaurant called Granny's and we decided to check into the Country Inn next door. The food was tasty, plentiful and cheap. This is almost miracle time since this establishment is 40 feet from the Interstate. Having traveled these byways more than once I am convinced that the proprietor of these eateries have made pacts with the devil to serve recycled cardboard at four star prices.

More nice surprises were waiting for us at the motel. First and foremost it was only \$18.95 for the room. It was brand new with the friendliest staff I've encountered in quite sometime; it was clean, in fact, brand new! Experiences like the above on the Interstate tourist-rip system is like finding a shy non ragchewer on 2 meters.

The rest of the drive was uneventful and as we arrived in Panama City Beach we entered the local repeater frequencies and met IT! IT was the \*\*\*\* TALKING REPEATER

The first time I heard the time and temp on the Ham radio I thought I had over dosed on oysters and my hearing was affected. But no it was the radio. We began to spend more time in the car so we could listen. Over the next few days we heard it say the following: Messages are waiting for KA---, Meeting tonight, Auto Patch in Use, Call completed, TGIF, Signal Strength S meter, Deviation, You are northeast of the repeater, swr of the repeater and all of this with the option of a male or female voice.

I thought it was a real hoot until I started missing LQM. I would find him out in the car with the windows up and Mike in hand. At first I thought he was rag chewing but one evening I heard the end of a strange conversation. I had heard him say yes he would accept the mission. Under cross examination he told me that the repeater was talking especially to him and had given him a mission.

Well I knew it had been a long year and that he was tired but this was too much. After all I don't think they make straight jackets in size 52. So I gave him a tiny little pill and threw him and our junk into the car and decided to get him away from the land of talking repeaters. I had the radio on as we were speeding out of town and I swear I heard it say "Don't worry LQM we'll continue the mission in December".

Hmm, ever feel you watched a little too much of the Twilight Zone as a kid? Then again, Spielberg might just think it was an Amazing Story! We'll see in December!!!



## TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of August 1, 1985

\$4665.98

## Income

Interest .....	20.00
ARRL Renewal .....	25.00
Misc. Income .....	5.00

Total Income ----- \$ 50.40

\$4716.38

## Expenses

Refreshments .....	\$ 4.07
Sparks & Postage .....	57.50
ARRL Renewal .....	23.00
Charge for Checks .....	6.87

Total Expenses ..... \$ 91.44

\$4624.94

Balance as of August 31, 1985

\$4624.94

## VE UPDATE

Congratulation to the following people who upgraded at the recent Amateur Exam session held at Ivy Tech on August 17th. Frank Spencer, KB4OHY Gen. George Utley, KA9TBE Tech. Robert Henn, KA9TML Tech.

There were nine people taking exams. Pass rate was 33%. The volunteer examiners were Cliff McGuyer (W9CM), Bob Bengert (AK9G), Pearl Edrington (AF9F), helpers were Mort Silverman (W9GJ), Blanche Elpers (KA9EIV), Charlie Sartore (N9DYE), Harold Muensterman (N9DE0) and John Norrick (KD9JB).

Next exam session will be November 23 at Ivy Tech. Contact person for this session will be:

Hal Wilson, WB9FNN

Rural Route 8 Box 427-B  
 Evansville, Indiana 47711  
 Telephone (812) 867-3151

Please send completed form 610, Copy of current license and check or money order payable to ARRL/VEC to Hal 30 days in advance to pre-register for the exam. Walk-ins will be accepted, but to help out the exam team, please pre-register.

73's John KD9JB

## TECH—TIPS



### Nicad Battery Charger Dummy Load, Analyzer & Repair Bad Cells

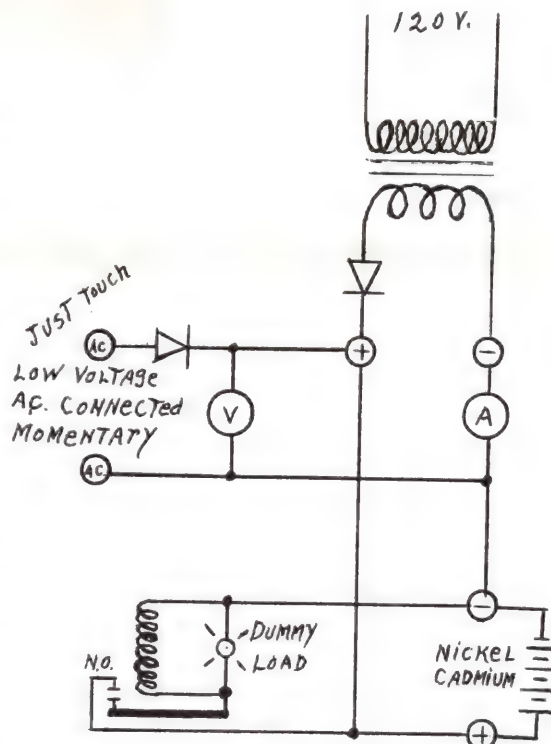
Nickel Cadmium battery are good but seem to go bad quite often, I have figured out how to keep them going just like new, about ten years ago we got a B & D grass trimmer; it does a good job but battery would go bad to so, I checked and found one cell shorted. I used a low voltage AC transformer with one diode 1/2 wave pulsating DC, around 25% more voltage than nicad, use jumper and just touch momentarily; surprisingly this has worked every time for me, some times the cell will short again when discharged but will open up and charge OK after a shot of DC.

Each time the trimmer is used, I put the battery on test stand; push relay down; light will stay lit till voltage drops a couple of Volts but turn off before battery is dead, then charge for about 15 hours.

At first I would check to find bad cell then momentarily connect DC to bad cell, now with the meters I have found out that the shorted cell will open up with the rest of good cells in circuit, In other words I waste no time.

**NOTICE!** Nicads might blow up if you used car battery or anything that couldn't be controlled, I use small tapped transformer, a light bulb that is right in circuit might help.

George Robinson K9PKG



## DENNIS ELECTRONICS

VCR &amp; TV SERVICE

INDIANA LICENSED TECHNICIAN

Rick Dennis

N9EMH

303 Euclid Ave.

Evansville

479-9973



# NEW "WARC" EMISSION SYMBOLS

## EXPLANATION OF NEW "WARC" EMISSION SYMBOLS

At the recent WARC conference, new emissions were agreed upon. These new symbols are scheduled to be placed in effect in the near future. In fact, some of the new VEC exams for some amateur license classes will be using these new symbols.

### FIRST CHARACTER

N Emission of an unmodulated carrier  
 A AM double sideband  
 J Single sideband, suppressed carrier  
 F Frequency modulation  
 P Sequence of unmodulated pulses  
 C Vestigial sidebands

### SECOND CHARACTER

Ø No modulating signal  
 1 Digital information, no modulation  
 2 Digital information with modulation  
 3 Modulated with analog information

### THIRD CHARACTER

N No information transmitted  
 A Telegraphy for reception by ear  
 B Telegraphy for automatic reception  
 C Facsimile  
 D Data transmission, telemetry, telecommand  
 E Telephony  
 F Television

### TRADITIONAL SYMBOL

### NEW SYMBOL

#### AMPLITUDE MODULATED

Unmodulated	AØ	NØN
Keyed on/off	A1	A1A
Tones keyed on/off	A2	A2A
AM data	--	A2D
Keyed tones w/SSB	A2J	J2A
SSB Data	--	J2D
AM voice	A3	A3E
Voice w/SSB	A3J	J3E
AM Facsimile	A4	A3C
SSB Television	A5	C3F
AM Television	A5	A3F

#### FREQUENCY MODULATED

Unmodulated	FØ	NØN
Switched between		
2 frequencies	F1	F1B
Switched tones	F2	F2A
FM Data	--	F2D
FM Voice	F3	F3E
FM Facsimile	F4	F3C
FM Television	F5	F3F

#### PULSE MODULATED

Phase	P	P1B
-------	---	-----

Thanks to Hank , W9RDJ for the above info. we will have a quiz at the Emergency Communications Conference.

## ROM (Continued from Page One)

The exact computer protocol is quite complicated; however all computer checks are programmed into a ROM (in this case Read Only Memory not Ramblin Old Man) which contains your callsign and other items to complete the digi-peter functions. Your system at home can receive messages all day, storing them in a buffer until you list them. All this is done on 145.Ø1 Simplex using a standard 2 meter FM rig. Prices for packet systems range from \$16Ø to \$3ØØ with some of the more expensive ones offering super features.

### 73 ROM

Editors Note: If you know of any other systems in the tri-state area let me know and I will publish the callsigns so the systems can be used.

## Repeater Freq. Changes

The two meter coordinated repeater list is being updated. Here are a few changes of interest in our area.

The following pairs have been added to the previous repeater list.

Boonville 144.57Ø/145.17Ø  
 WA9BAD/R

Terre Haute 144.59Ø/145.19Ø  
 NC9U/R

Indianapolis 449.ØØ/444.ØØ  
 K9UZQ

The frequency 147.555 has been set aside for packet radio digipeters in Indiana. 145.Ø1Ø has also been set aside as an alternate backup frequency.

The above changes were taken from the Indiana ARRL Section Newsletter.

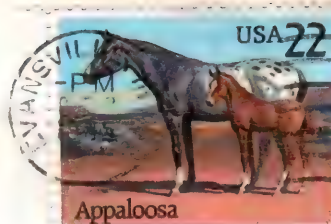




# SPARKS

Tri-State Amateur Radio Society  
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

Volume XXVI No. X October 1985



## OFFICERS:

President Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE  
Vice Pres. Carolyn Anderson, KA9LMO  
Secretary Elvin Reed, WB9VSQ  
Treasurer Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

## DIRECTORS:

Blanche Elpers, KA9EIV  
Bill Spencer, WD9HUK  
Ralph Waldo, K9STX  
Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Charlie Finke, WB9NQD  
Mort Silverman, W9GJ

## SPARKS EDITOR:

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572

T.A.R.S. regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Diamond and Heidelberg Avenues at the American Red Cross building. Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM Evansville time.  
The Officers & Directors meetings will be held on the third Thursday at 7:00 PM Evansville time at the American Red Cross building.

The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM Evansville time on the W9OG Repeater 147.75/15. Everyone Welcome to this net.

from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

TO:

0004  
FAY GONZALEZ  
2202 EAST POWELL  
EVANSVILLE  
47715

1985  
OCT 15



## October Program

Since becoming editor of Sparks three years ago I have seen amateur radio change greatly. RTTY is now very popular due to the Computer. Computers have also made error free Packet radio the latest frontier.

Hams in Space is no longer a Jim Henson dream; however I still like the "Pigs In Space" with Miss. Piggy.

One of John Lynn's WA9IVE, former students made the top ten in the teacher in space race.

SSTV transmissions from the shuttle have been achieved.

Our October program will feature Dr. Kenneth Poole from the U. of E. NASA resource center. His program will deal with land management, communications satellites, and information on NASA in general. If you haven't seen what is being done by the satellite program in the way of super aerial photos you have missed an extremely interesting show.

## PICKLES WILL KILL YOU!

(An Oldie, Originally Submitted by WB8AEV)

Every pickle you eat brings you near death. Amazingly, the thinking man has failed to grasp the terrifying significance of the term "In a Pickle."

Pickles are associated with all major diseases of the body. Eating them breeds war and riots. They can be related to most airplane crashes, as most carcasses of crashed airplanes had one or more pickles in them. Auto accidents are caused by pickles. There is a positive relationship between crime and the eating of pickles.

To cite some statistics:

- 99.9% of all people who die from cancer have eaten pickles.
- Nearly all sick people have eaten pickles.
- 100% of all soldiers have eaten pickles.
- 96% of all Communist sympathizer's have eaten pickles.
- 99.7% of people in air and auto accidents had eaten pickles within 14 days preceding the incident.
- 93.1% of juvenile delinquents come from homes where pickles are frequently served.

Evidence points to the long-term effect of pickle eating:

- Of all the people born in 1839 who later dined on pickles there has been a 100% mortality rate.
- All the pickle eaters born between 1849 and 1859 have wrinkled skin, have lost most of their teeth, have brittle bones and failing eyesight -- if the ills of eating pickles have not already caused their death.
- Even more convincing is a report by a noted team of medical specialists. Rats, force-fed with 20 pounds of pickles daily for 30 days developed bulging abdomens. Their appetite for wholesome food was destroyed.



## KRE'S KORNER

Well the 1985 Communication Coordination Conference - commonly called Picnic was held last month at the Salem United Church of Christ picnic grounds in Darmstadt. Thanks to Jerry, WD9EDE, for making it available to us. We had a great time and the weather was beautiful and plenty to eat for everybody. Bob, KA9TML, gave us a lesson on how to pitch washers & George, KA9TBE, showed us how to eat chicken. My XYL Delores, KA9KRD, and I were on our way into town that morning to pick up a cake for desert when she said why not just get some fruit instead. So that idea was her's and it seemed to go over real well.

Saturday October 19th at 9:00 AM is the annual S.E.T. (Simulated Emergency Test). We will be operating on 75/15. We Don't have anymore details yet so listen on the Wednesday night net and we will try to get things together. The test is supposed to be a chemical spill. I have talked to Don Jackson and he wants an operator for sure at the State Police Post to pass traffic. We will probably need someone at the Red Cross Building too. So help us out all you can; we should be able to cover all of the agencies involved without any problems.

Election time is getting closer, Mort W9GJ, John W9FHA and Paul K9JSK are the nominating committee and I am sure they will appreciate any help you can give them. If you are interested in any office give one of them a call.

Don't forget Club Meeting Thursday October 10th - 7:30 PM American Red Cross Building.

73 Jim KA9KRE

## FEEDBACK de KA9LMO

I normally write this column with my tongue planted firmly in cheek. This month however, I have a few things that I would like to say. We hear about public service in connection with Amateur Radio and a few of us help with the Weather Service or Incert. But the value of something is never so clear as when it happens in your own backyard.

Recently two natural crises showed how very valuable our hobby can be when mother nature goes waco. My parents live in Panama City Beach, Florida and when a certain lady named Elena came to visit she caused quite a stir. We spent the Labor Day weekend glued to the weather channel and CNN. Nothing though was as informative to me as listening to the local emergency net and finding out what was REALLY happening. Lets be real, news is structured for bucks via ratings and you never know what kind of slant the network is throwing on it.

My parents were evacuated twice and they were quite lucky, when they returned there were just a few limbs down. The first thing they told us was how the local hams had been praised by local and state officials. Without their expertise and equipment, communications in the areas most devastated would have been nil. A few weeks later the earthquake in Mexico destroyed blocks and blocks of Mexico City. Again, without the Amateur Radio operators, communications would have been nonexistent with the ravaged country. I remember several Hams making the national news during the first few days post earthquake as the only links to the outside world.

In times like these Amateur Radio is not a hobby it is a lifeline. I feel very proud to be involved in such an activity.

O.K. that's that!

Next month tune in for LQM's latest misadventure, I've been dragging him to classical music concerts and you're not going to believe what he pulled one night, see he ----- uh, guess I better save that for next month. That literary device is commonly called a hook. See you next month to reel you in!

73 Carolyn

## REMINDERS

Check the expiration date on your Ham license. This week another Ham confessed that his license expired two months ago.

Speaking of License's. The reservation form for Amateur Radio License Plates must be filled out at the branch where you wish to pick up your plates. According to one local Branch Manager, the State of Indiana WILL NOT be sending out forms as in the past. However; this might change.

To be safe order your Ham Radio Plates at the branch of your choice. The cost is \$2.00. If this is the first time you have ordered plates take your Amateur License along to verify that you are eligible for plates. They do not usually ask for the license on renewals; however this is up to each branch. Take your ticket with you to be sure.



## SILENT KEYS

Bernard (Bud) Healy, WA9JBD, passed away August 18th. Bud of Harrisburg, IL was a regular check-in on the Wednesday evening net and always ready with reports from his area during the times the emergency weather net was activated. His XYL, Wanda, is WA9FMD, his son Curt is WA9JBC and daughter Linda is WA9MEO. Bud will be very much missed.

Herbert Muth, N9ALX, passed away September 20th. Herb's original call was W9NZC and later he was licensed as WB9OLO. Records show Herb as a T.A.R.S. member as early as 1948. In 1965 he was Club secretary and in 1968 served as Club President. Also in 1968 Herb was Advertising Manager, a position he held on Sparks for many years. Until this year Herb was a regular at the all-night Field Day exercise. A contribution has been sent to the Barry Goldwater Scholarship Fund in his memory.

Sincere condolences to Paul, K8GK, on the loss of his brother-in-law Wilburn S. Hyatt, Jr. Bud, as he was known, was retired from Keller Crescent.

## PREVIEWS

Soon a CB to 10 Meter FM conversion handbook will be published by T.A.R.S. This booklet was compiled by Tom Dick, WA9QDZ. It takes some of the various conversions available and translates them into reasonably simple step by step instructions. These conversions will not work with every CB; however the various boards which will work are noted.

Thanks to Tom for a job well done.

## Editor's Notebook de KA9LQM

Believe it or not, the time for electing (rail roading) next years officers and directors is just around the corner. During the past year we have accomplished many things; however; there is still a lot to get done in the future. In order to maintain our SSC (Special Service Club) status with the ARRL we must progress not stagnate.

I would like to climb on the "Editors Soapbox" once again and make some suggestions for the future.

1. I would like you to think about what you want T.A.R.S. to be. What are YOUR goals for the club? This can be anything from a social gathering to serious work, projects, field days, special event stations, learning programs, public service, etc. Any organization that is going somewhere needs goals and things they would like to accomplish.

2. What do you like or dislike about the club as it now stands? Do you want change or are you happy with it as it is? If you have things you would like to see changed, what are they? I SHOULD WARN YOU ABOUT THE RULES. If you have a problem, voice it, but also give some positive solution to the problem. I believe that when people see a problem,, they also have an idea to make it better.

3. What can we do to get more people interested in club meeting and Amateur Radio. Are there things we should be doing? Are there things we are doing wrong? Now think about this for a while. Don't fly off the handle and tell us what is best for you, tell us what is going to be best for a great hobby and our club.

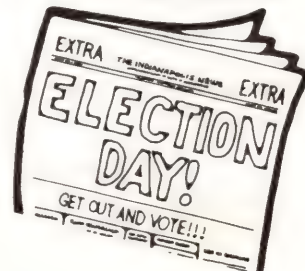
4. What can we do to make the hobby more interesting and exciting for you? Are there things that you would like to do that we are not doing?

5. Remember that not all activities have to be a "Club Function". If there is a small group of people interested in building home brew, let them do it and have them keep us informed. Another group might be interested in computers or packet radio. Why not let them set it up for their schedule. Even though we may not want to participate, we can learn from others.

NOW that I've jumped on my soapbox again with ideas, why don't you voice yours to the officers and directors? Club meetings are the second Thursday of the month. You Know Where. If you are shy call me or send a letter to the editor of Sparks; address and phone numbers are on the front page.

Think about all this stuff I've written in a late night brainstorm; now YOU Brainstorm on the above.

MUCHOS GRATIAS  
Senor Schoettlin, W9UMS,  
for the many hours spent  
handling traffic into and  
out of Mexico after the  
devastating earthquake.





## Attention ICOM Owners

If you own an ICOM R71, 271 or 751, DO NOT disconnect the lithium battery on the memory board. The loss of battery power will force you to reprogram the RAM.

All of these models use a common \$17.00 memory plug-in-board containing two IC's (one a Japanese 2114 RAM) and a lithium battery. A ham friend wanted to experiment with the memory circuit, so he disconnected the battery in order to install a socket for the RAM.

His radio didn't work when he reconnected everything, and a call to ICOM confirmed that the RAM contains the microcode which gives each model radio its own personality. His board is on the way back to ICOM for reprogramming, which cannot be done at the dealers.

For ICOM owners, this means that when the lithium battery runs down (7 year life), the memory board must be sent back for reprogramming.



## Treasurer's Report for September 1985

Balance as of September 1, 1985		\$4624.94
<b>Income</b>		
Interest .....	19.25	
ARRL Renewals .....	27.00	
ARRL Refund .....	2.00	
ECC Picnic Reservations .....	49.00	
Misc. Income .....	5.00	
Total Income -----	\$102.25	\$4727.19
<b>Expenses</b>		
Sparks & Postage .....	57.50	
ARRL Renewal .....	25.00	
ECC Picnic .....	204.38	
Memorial .....	25.00	
Total Expenses .....	\$ 311.88	\$4415.31
Balance as of September 30, 1985		\$4415.31

## Reading the Mail de KA9EIV

### GOLDEN ROSES TO THE ROBINSON'S

Mr. and Mrs. George, K9PKG, Robinson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary September 15th in Olpe, Kansas. They have two sons, Howard of Plano, TX and Earl of O'Fallon, MO. George and Edna were married in Olpe, Kansas. George is retired from Alcoa.

WB9LCA, Bob Barrett, has moved to Muscatine, Iowa where he holds a position similar to that of Quality Control he held at Short Milling Co. in Mt. Vernon.

Vacation tourists this summer included KA9LMO and KA9LQM to Florida, WD9HUK and KA9CPE and family to Yellowstone National Park, K9STX and K9STV to the Maine area. Also travelling to Maine were WB9FNN and Carol. In the York, Pennsylvania vicinity, Hal used his amateur radio to call for assistance when a semi in front of him jack-knifed and landed down a 10 to 15 foot embankment. The fuel tank ruptured; but there were no injuries. Hal made the call to a Ham at Lancaster, with whom he had been in QSO with and in a matter of three or four minutes several pieces of emergency equipment arrived.

73 Blanche KA9EIV

### DATES TO REMEMBER

OCT. 19, Saturday 9:00 AM  
Simulated Emergency Test

NOV. 23, Saturday 9:00 AM  
ARRL/VEC Testing at Ivy  
Tech. Contact WB9FNN Hal  
Wilson for more info.

DEC. 13, Friday 6:00 PM  
T.A.R.S. Christmas Party at  
the Log Inn. More details  
next month.

### T.A.R.S. ELECTIONS

The time for TARS Elections is drawing near. The nominating committee this year consists of:  
Mort Silverman, W9GJ  
John Small, W9FHA  
Paul Wurtz, K9JSK

If you have anyone you would like to nominate for one of the club offices give one of the above a call.

This year we will be filling all club offices  
President  
Vice-President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
as well as three of the positions on the Board of Directors.

If you get a call from the nominating committee consider helping your club grow.

If you would like to run for any of the positions which are open; call Mort, John or Paul.

73 KA9LQM





## SPARKS

**Tri-State Amateur Radio Society**  
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

Volume XXVI No. XI November 1985



### OFFICERS:

President Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE  
Vice Pres. Carolyn Anderson, KA9LMO  
Secretary Elvin Reed, WB9VSQ  
Treasurer Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

### DIRECTORS:

Blanche Elpers, KA9EIV  
Bill Spencer, WD9HUK  
Ralph Waldo, K9STX  
Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Charlie Finke, WB9NQD  
Mort Silverman, W9GJ

### SPARKS EDITOR:

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572

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The Officers & Directors meetings will be held on the third Thursday at 7:00 PM Evansville time at the American Red Cross building.

The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM Evansville time on the W9OG Repeater 147.75/15 Everyone Welcome to this net.

from:

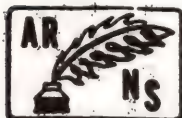
Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

TO:

0044  
Fay Gehres  
2232 East Powell  
Evansville  
47715

1985  
W9AIN

IN



## PACKET RADIO

Bryan, WB9QVR and Rick, KD9MY will present the November program which will be on Packet Radio.

For those of you who have been hiding under a rock or are CW fanatics or just plain "Not Interested in Computers and other Neat Stuff". Packet Radio is one of the newest frontiers in Amateur Radio. It is possible to have 100% Error Free QSO's on 2 meters with stations thousands of miles apart. In order to do this you must know of "Gateway" stations to send your message via. One or more digital repeaters may be used. Each station can act as a mini-repeater so knowing the stations available is vital. Presently Florida is linked to New England and Ohio to the East Coast. In our area packet is just starting to catch on; however you will be seeing a listing in Sparks of some of the "Gateway" stations which can be used.

# Look What's Up!



### T.A.R.S. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The T.A.R.S. Christmas party will be held on December 13, 1985. That's Right FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH. It might just be your lucky day to win some of the prizes which will be given away.

We will be having the party at the Log Inn just east of Highway 41 and just past Highway 64 there will be a map in the December Sparks; however you must have your reservations mailed to Charlie, N9DYE no later than the 5th of December in order to know how much food to order. The menu will be served family style with Chicken, Roast Beef, Ham and possibly Turkey. No one will go away hungry; if you have never been to the Log Inn you will enjoy the place; it's a one of a kind spot.

As usual we will have lots of prizes and surprises in store for everyone. All dinners will cost \$5.00 each for both Adults and Children. Drinks will be available from the bar at the Log Inn. Plan now to attend for a good time it just might be "Fright Night For Real". OK movie buffs what movie was the preceding quote from. See you there.

73 Mike KA9LQM



## KRE'S KORNER

Well here it is November already. We had a very successful S.E.T. on October 19th. Thanks to everyone who participated; messages were passed between the various agencies, both state and local without any problems. We had John, W9FHA at the American Red Cross headquarters operating H.F & VHF; John, WA9IVE at the State Police Post on H.F & VHF; Mike, KA9LQM at the Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center operating VHF;; George, KA9TBE at the Weather Bureau on VHF and last but not least Blanche, KA9EIV was running the net and making phone calls. Everything ran so smooth all I had to do was just check into the net, So Thanks Again to everyone who helped out either by working or checking in.

We had another first in October John, "WA9IVE"; Paul, "K8GIK" and Ralph, "KA9DDQ" worked for INCERT at the Candy Scan at the Burger King on first avenue in North Park shopping center. When John & Paul retired they thought they were finished with kids. When I got there around 6:30 they were lined up waiting to have their candy scanned with a metal detector and everybody was having fun. Thanks again guys.

I got a call from Fred Herrmann the Civil Defense director on the 29th; telling me that Civil Defense now owns a Ten-Tec Corsair II. We now have a new Corsair II at the Red Cross, State Police Post and Civil Defense. All three are on emergency back up power. We should be in good shape for anything that could happen; let's hope we never need them for a real emergency.

Back to November; at the meeting this month we will be electing Officers and Directors for 1986. The nominating committee has been working hard for over two months now to come up with a good slate of candidates - or a slate of good candidates - which ever we still need to vote. Also the gang at "The Ham Station" is going to demonstrate Packet Radio; the new state of the art 2 meter or HF communications. Can you believe a solid 2 meter QSO with someone in California? It's coming.

DON'T FORGET to send in your Reservation for the Christmas Dinner found elsewhere in Sparks, we need these to know how much food to order.

73 Jim, KA9KRE

### Treasurer's Report

Balance as of October 1, 1985		\$4415.31
Income		
Interest .....	19.43	
ARRL Renewals .....	70.00	
Total Income .....	\$ 89.43	\$4504.74
Expenses		
Sparks & Postage .....	57.50	
ARRL Renewal .....	64.00	
Refreshments .....	19.59	
Insurance (Tower) .....	50.00	
American Red Cross .....	550.00	
Postage .....	22.00	
Total Expenses .....	\$ 763.09	\$3741.65
Balance as of October 31, 1985		\$3741.65

## Editor's Notebook

de KA9LQM

### 1985 FIELD DAY RESULTS

Well the results of the 1985 Field Day are in. John Small, W9FHA and the gang who operated came in a well deserved 6th. in our class which was Battery Powered QRP Station (2A).

A lot of work went into the effort and the results were close only 220 Points separated the 5th and 6th place. Again a BIG THANKS to everyone who helped make this achievement possible.

-----

This month you will find a new column entitled "GATEWAY", for those not up on Packet Radio come to the November meeting and you will understand the term "Gateway". If you have or know of anyone with packet capabilities; especially anyone leaving their station on in the repeater mode let me know and they will be listed under the Gateway column. I hope this column is of help to everyone who is on the air with packet radio. Only be keeping the list updated will you be able to fully use the advantages of packet. Help keep the list current and inform me of any additions, deletions or errors. If the node number of the station is known also include it.

-----

VE Testing, November 23 at Ivy Tech. Contact person is Hal Wilson, WB9FNN.

Walk-ins welcome; but please give Hal a call at 867-3151 if possible. The number of walk-ins is limited and on a first come first served basis. The time is 9:00 AM for those pre registered. 8:30 AM for all Walk-ins.



## T.A.R.S. ELECTIONS

The nominating committee which consisted of Mort Silverman, W9GJ; John Small, W9FHA; and Paul Wurtz, K9JSK have come up with this years slate of nominee's for T.A.R.S. Officers and Directors:

President: Carolyn Anderson, KA9LMO  
Vice-Pres: John Lynn, WA9IVE  
Secretary: Mort Silverman, W9GJ  
Treasurer: Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

Directors: Cliff McGuyer, W9CM  
Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE  
George Utley, KA9TBE

Nominations are also accepted from the floor, however check to see that the person you are nominating is qualified, the requirements are:

- (1.) Has been a paid TARS member for at least 1 year.
- (2.) That they will accept the office if elected.

## SILENT KEYS

TARS would like to extend sincere sympathy to Tom Donavon, N9EGI on the passing of his mother.

TARS would also like to extend sympathy to Richard Thomas, WB9WDH on the recent passing of his wife Dixie.

The frequency 147.555 has been set aside for packet radio digipeters in Indiana. 145.010 has also been set aside as an alternate backup frequency.

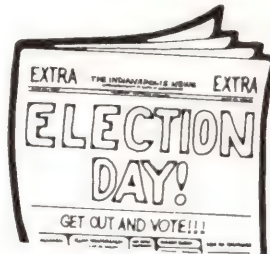
The above changes were taken from the Indiana ARRL Section Newsletter.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

```

*****
*
*      Tri-State Amateur Radio Society
*      Christmas Party
*      Friday, December 13, 1985
*      Log Inn
*
* I/we will be able to attend this years party.
*
* Enclosed is $_____ for _____ reservations.
*
* Cost is $5.00 per person (Adults or Children)
*
* Only Licenced T.A.R.S. members are eligible for
* the Door Prize Drawings.
*
* Name _____ Call _____
*
* Send reservations to: Charlie Sartore, N9DYE
*                      709 East Virginia St.
*                      Evansville, IN 47711
*
* Reservations must be in by December 5, 1985
*
*****

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## Gateway

Call & Location of known Packet Stations. Individual stations may be in the digi-repeater mode; however they are not guaranteed routes you will just have to try them.

D= Digipeater

B= Bulliten Board System

I= Individual

WB4LKP	Lexington, Ky	D
WB9UWJ	Vincennes, In	I
W9NQG	Linton, In	I
W4MFG	Louisville, Ky	I
W4BEJ	Fort Knox, Ky	I
K8RSP	Indianapolis, In	I
W9MAX	Linton, In	I
W9CD	Urbana, Ill	I
WA9UKK	Terre Haute, In	I
WA9UKB	Terre Haute, In	I
KK9W	Laffayette, In	I
W4BEJ	Radcliff, Ky	I
W4BEJ-1	Radcliff, Ky	D
N4ICS	Greensburg, Ky	I
KE4NS	Elizabethtown, Ky	I
KA9PEZ	Carbondale, Ill	I
WB4VFW	Elizabethtown, Ky	I
WB7QWG	Ft. Benjamin Harris	
WA9WQS	Anderson, In	I
KD9MY	Evansville, In	I
N9DOR	Ft. Branch, In	I
N9APA	Evansville, In	I
K4DPP	Henderson, Ky	D
WB9UWJ	St. Louis, Mo	I
K9RRP	St. Louis, Mo	I
KA9AKM	St. Louis, Mo	I
WD9ENR	Ramsey, Il	I
KB9DU	Filmore, Il	I
WAOKGU	Hazlewood, Mo	I
K9RRP	Salem, Il	I
WB9FLW	Edwardsville, Il	I
NOAJF	St. Louis, Mo	I
KE4NS	Elizabethtown, Ky	I
WB4WVH	Irvington, Ky	I
KB4AGA	Frankfort, Ky	I
WA8EJH	Bloomington, In	I
WA8EJH-2		B
This BBS can reach WB9QPG-1		
digi in Lafayette, In also		
N9CZA-1 BBS in Lafayette.		
KA9JXQ-1 Anderson, In		
provides access to WA9WQS		
BBS; also thru KA9JXQ-1 you		
should be able to access		
W80G digipeater in Dayton,		
Oh. and from W80G to AD8I		
in Columbus, Oh.		

Have Fun 73 de ROM  
Ramblin Old Man



## FEEDBACK de KA9LMO



Trying to pursue cultural interests with LQM is a very unique experience. I have always enjoyed any type of music and have intended to take in a few of the Philharmonic concerts for many a moon now.

I broached the subject with Mike and saw the calculating look come over his face. You know, the one everyone has when KRE asks for volunteers for something. I knew behind his fevered little brow he was madly trying to elude capture.

He then proceeded with a very reasonable treatise on the IF WE WANT A DECEMBER VACATION HOW'LL WE'LL HAVE TO CONSERVE BUCKS lecture. Ah Ha, I was closing in with the big net to bag my game. "You mean" I asked "if we could see the philharmonic musicians free, you'd go, right?"

With a relieved grin he magnanimously agreed to go thinking it quite impossible. I told him that was wonderful and to reserve the next three months of Tuesday nights for concerts. He alternately hissed, steamed and generally had a red face as I explained the following.

The Faculty at the University of Evansville is a very important part of the Philharmonic Orchestra. In fact, the Concert Master and almost every first chair in the group is a professor at the UE School of Music. Beginning in September they start a string of Faculty Recitals at Wheeler Concert Hall on the campus that is FREE-read it again-FREE to the general public.

Well, I had him, not wanting to lose face he agreed to go to the recitals. The first few concerts were rather uneventful although looking back I do remember LQM being very observant in the concert hall and he seemed to be doing a lot of mental calculations.

Hams are an inventive lot and did LQM have a surprise for me. One tuesday evening he insisted on wearing a sport coat, that should have been my tip off but I wasn't alert enough. We proceeded to the hall early and were the only people present 45 minutes before showtime. He made a big fuss over possibly losing some money and asked me to go back to the car to check the area for it.

I looked quite awhile and couldn't find anything so I returned to the hall. Looking back I recall two students talking about the new FAT service man fixing the microphone in the hall. They were giggling about how clumsy he looked standing on the top of the GRAND PIANO stringing his WIRE. (The solid caps indicate important clues that I overlooked.)

Well the concert began and LQM seemed very smug, satisfied and unusually occupied. As I sat to his left I saw his right hand go to his ear, then disappear in his right coat pocket and the rest of the evening his right arm wiggled and jerked.

I thought the poor thing was having back spasms until an odd thing happened. During a clarinet solo I was certain I heard code for QSL. I was amazed how the tones of music and ham radio could be so similar. Then during the flute solo I heard CQ CQ and I knew there was a LARGE rat in Denmark.

I made a clandestine move placing my arm lovingly around his shoulders. In one fluid move I pulled the earphone from his right ear and opened his coat to reveal a home brew micro transmitter and soundproof key. I gave the transmitter a pull and his right leg jerked as I saw the micro fine wire that ran under his slacks and was connected to wiring above our heads in a brilliant rendition of a di-pole.

He turned the gizmo off and sulked the rest of the performance. When we hit the door of home sweet home I told him how proud I was of his ingenuity and his prize was freedom from the rest of the concerts. His grin spread from chubby little cheek to cheek. I told him that if he missed his CW that much I would not think of taking him away from it. His smile froze in place. He knew.

Now I go to the concerts with a friend. I leave LQM home to practice with his beloved chains and whips. I told him if he doesn't have 30 wpm by December he's in big trouble. Funny, he went out today and bought a classical album, he's telling me how much he has grown to love the art form.

I have a feeling he'll be going to the concerts soon in a most attentive manner. Isn't aversion therapy grand?!!!



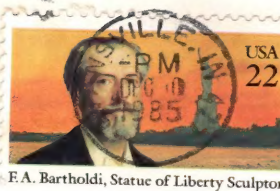


# SPARKS

## Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

Volume XXVI No. XII December 1985



### OFFICERS:

President Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE  
Vice Pres. Carolyn Anderson, KA9LMO  
Secretary Elvin Reed, WB9VSQ  
Treasurer Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

### DIRECTORS:

Blanche Elpers, KA9EIV  
Bill Spencer, WD9HUK  
Ralph Waldo, K9STX  
Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Charlie Finke, WB9NQD  
Mort Silverman, W9GJ

### SPARKS EDITOR:

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572

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The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM Evansville time on the W9OG Repeater 147.75/15 Everyone Welcome to this net.

from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

TO:

0044 1985  
Fay Gehres  
2232 East Powell  
Evansville IN  
47715

1985  
W9AIN

*Handwritten:* 476-5777



# Look What's Up!



Service Awards



# Pitch in!

### T.A.R.S. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The T.A.R.S. Christmas party will be held on December 13, 1985 at the Log Inn. The Log Inn is just east of Highway 41 and just past Highway 64 you will see a sign for the Inn. The sign is just past Hipps Nursery with the pink elephant, giraffes and if you look close live Buffalo or Bison if you prefer. Reservations were in last months Sparks and were to be in Charlie's hands no later than the 5th of December. The menu will be served family style with Chicken, Roast Beef, Ham and possibly Turkey. No one will go away hungry; if you have never been to the Log Inn you will enjoy the place; it's a one of a kind spot.

As usual we will have lots of prizes and surprises in store for everyone. All dinners will cost \$5.00 each for both Adults and Children. Drinks will be available from the bar at the Log Inn.

SORRY NO COOLERS OR BYOB IS ALLOWED THIS YEAR.

See You There. 73 Mike KA9LQM

Gary, KA9ECY, is to be commended for his work with the 100 mile run from Oakland City, Indiana to Louisville, Kentucky on November 15th & 16th. Gary kept in contact with the mobile unit accompanying the runners via 2-meters using 145.41, Princeton -- 147.795, Jasper -- 146.94, Louisville repeaters. He monitored from 6:00 AM CST to 6:00 PM on Nov. 15th and from 5:15 AM CST to 8:30 PM on Nov. 16th relaying messages to WA9FCY to be delivered to the College at Oakland City and to KA9EIV with phone traffic in Evansville. Thanks Gary for a Job Well Done!



## Treasurer's Report

### KRE'S KORNER

This is about the sixth time I have started this article. Since this is my last one there are so many things that run through my mind; I can't seem to get organized. I need to thank a lot of people for the help I received for the past two years. I can't list them all because I don't think Mike "KA9LQM" will let me take up all of Sparks for that. I'll just say a great big heartfelt thanks to all of you that were there when we needed you. Being president of TARS has been one of the highlights of my life and with all of your help I have really enjoyed the past two years.

As most of you know I have been appointed District Emergency Coordinator for Southwestern Indiana. All this means is that I will need a lot more help so you really haven't rid yourselves of me yet.

Thanks to the guys at the Ham Station we had a real good program for our November meeting. If everybody doesn't understand packet radio now it's because that guy in the back row ran out of questions. Rick KD9MY) and Brian (WB9QVR) did a lot of ground work for this one. Thanks Again Guys.

Our December meeting will be at the Log Inn in Warrington, Indiana right after we get finished eating. If you haven't been there you are in for a treat. Food is served family style and they just keep bringing it on. Don't forget to get your reservation in to Charlie N9DYE so we will know how many are coming -- See You There.

73 Jim KA9KRE

30

Balance as of November 1, 1985		\$4415.31
Income		
Interest .....	16.24	
ARRL Renewals .....	52.00	
	-----	
Total Income -----	\$ 68.24	\$3809.89
Expenses		
Sparks & Postage .....	58.38	
ARRL Renewal .....	48.00	
Refreshments.....	26.61	
Memorials .....	25.00	
	-----	
Total Expenses .....	\$ 157.99	\$3651.90
Balance as of November 30, 1985		\$3651.90

The latest exam on November 23, 1985 was administered by W9GJ, W9CM and AK9G with WB9FNN and KA9EIV assisting. Congradulations to the following for their upgrading.

Harold Muensterman	N9DEO	to Extra
John Hanes	KA9LDE	to Advanced
Dan Davis	KA9SJZ	to Technician
Ron Price	KA9TOP	to General
Roger Peterson	KA9ANN	to Technician
Bill Sallee	KI4DY	to Extra

### T.A.R.S. ELECTIONS

Newly elected officers and directors are as follows:

President: Carolyn Anderson, KA9LMO  
 Vice-Pres: John Lynn, WA9IVE  
 Secretary: Mort Silverman, W9GJ  
 Treasurer: Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

Directors: Cliff McGuyer, W9CM  
 Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE  
 George Utley, KA9TBE

### SILENT KEYS

Sincere condolences to John Dilges, K9GKR, on the passing of his mother.

### PACKET RADIO

WA4UMR-1	Louisville	KY	Digi
K4HY	Owensboro	KY	Digi
W40YI	Owensboro	KY	I
W4BEJ-1	Radcliff	KY	Digi
WAOKGU	Hazelwood	MO	I
WDOCZI	Hazelwood	MO	I
WB2QFW	Jackson	MO	I
W00GS	St. Charles	MO	I
NOAJF	St. Louis	MO	I
AD9I	Columbus	OH	Digi W80G
W80G	Dayton	OH	Digi



# Gateway

## Editor's Notebook

de KA9LQM

Call	City	State	Type	Connect Via
KA9PEZ	Carbondale	IL	I	
KA9AKM	Edwardsville	IL	I	
WB9FLW	Edwardsville	IL	I	
KB9DU	Filmore	IL	I	
N9DAN	Greenville	IL	I	
W9KXQ	Greenville	IL	I	
K9HYZ	Hillsboro	IL	I	K9RRP, KD9RW
WD9ENR	Ramsey	IL	I	
K9RRP	Salem	IL	I	
W9YCI	Springfield	IL	I	
WA9KRL	Springfield	IL	I	
KA9CAP-1	Urbana	IL	I	
W9CD	Urbana	IL	I	
N9AZZ	West Frankfort	IL	I	
KA9JXQ-1	Anderson	IN	I	
WA9QWS	Anderson	IN	I	
WA9WQS	Anderson	IN	I	
WA8EJH	Bloomington	IN	I	
WA8EJH-2	Bloomington	IN	BBS	WA8EJH
WB3JEV	Charlestown	IN	I	
WA9HGO	Elnora	IN	I	
KA9LQM	Evansville	IN	I	K4DPP
KD9MY	Evansville	IN	I	K4DPP
N44XI	Evansville	IN	I	K4DPP
N9APA	Evansville	IN	I	K4DPP
KA9TJF	Floyd Knobs	IN	I	
KA9TJF-1	Floyd Knobs	IN	Digi	
N9DOR	Fort Branch	IN	I	K4DPP
WB7QWG	Ft. Benj. Harrison	IN	I	
KD9EU	Hebron	IN	I	
KA8RSP	Indianapolis	IN	I	
N9CZA-1	Laffayette	IN	I	
WB9QPG-1	Laffayette	IN	I	
KK9W	Laffayette	IN	I	
N9DOE	Laffayette	IN	I	
W9MAX	Linton	IN	I	
W9NQG	Linton	IN	I	
K9XX	Morgantown	IN	I	
K9HCE	Newburgh	IN	I	
KD9JB	Oakland City	IN	I	
KD9PY	Terre Haute	IN	I	
WA9UKB	Terre Haute	IN	I	
WA9UKK	Terre Haute	IN	I	
WD9EYB-1	Terre Haute	IN	BBS	
W9CQ	Vincennes	IN	I	
WB9UWJ	Vincennes	IN	I	
KD9ER	Winslow	IN	Traf	
WA4JTE	Columbia	KY	I	
KE4NS	Elizabethtown	KY	I	
WB4VFW	Elizabethtown	KY	I	
W4BEJ	Fort Knox	KY	I	
KB4AGA	Frankfort	KY	I	
N4ICS	Greensburg	KY	I	
WA4YJX	Hardinsburg	KY	I	
K4DPP	Henderson	KY	Digi	
WB4WVH	Irvington	KY	I	
WB4LXP	Lexington	KY	I	
K4DMU	Louisville	KY	I	
W4FMG	Louisville	KY	I	
WA4TWB	Louisville	KY	I	

Cont. Page Two

Well another year is almost over and I would like to thank this years Officers and Directors for a job well done.

Packet is alive and well in the tri-state; the list of known packet stations is growing daily. For the next few month I will be printing a list of stations by location under the column Gateway. If you are into packet or know of someone who is give them a copy of the list. Non TARS members may obtain the current listing by sending a S.A.S.E. to the editor. The address is on the front page of Sparks.

I have been on packet for about three weeks now and the activity is developing rapidly. The Owensboro group has their digipeater (K4HY) up and running. Dan and the Ham Station have K4DPP on the channel 25 tower in Henderson which is approximately 600 feet and gives quite good coverage. You can now link with Louisville, St. Louis and Indianapolis. Links should develop with Nashville and South into Georgia and Florida as soon as we learn the necessary callsigns of more of the stations in those areas.

On November 12 the weather net was activated Net in session 2:34 with 16 Check In's.

Net control was KA9LQM with Bryan (WA9LDD) & Paul (K8GIK) at the national weather service office. In addition to the 147.15 machine packet connections were made to Vincennes and Ft. Branch.

Don't Forget the January Meeting will be the annual Auction; so start early cleaning out that Junk Box; I mean Treasure Chest of Goodies for the Auction.

This list is updated and reprinted monthly. To receive the latest copy please send a S.A.S.E. to :

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

Please send us your additions or corrections



## FEEDBACK de KA9LMO

*Christmas At  
The Zoo'*

DEC. 6-15

Weekdays: 6-8p.m.  
Weekends: 12noon-8p.m.

Tis' the season to be jolly and LQM is attempting to be the jolliest elf around. Christmas came about a month early for my dear one in the guise of a tower. He bought the tower sometime ago but the time never seemed quite right to erect it. That translates into CAROLYN DIDN'T WANT IT IN HER BACK YARD.

Now you know that I love Ham Radio but I'm also the guy that cuts the grass and I just wasn't in the mood for another obstacle back there. The back yard is the refuse spot for all of LQM's past hobbies and believe me he's had a lot of them.

The first thing you stumble over is the one half of a Square Foot garden that ended up as a square inch garden. He told me on that one that herbs grow better in small spaces. Uh huh, and when will the martian land in my back yard?!

Next you find the column that the telescope was to be mounted on for Halley's Comet, no telescope of course just the column. He told me on that one that he needs to sight various constellations on the lone column as they move overhead in the winter sky. Uh huh, and when will the above martian return with the winning lottery ticket.

Finally we arrive at the purple martin house. Now I must be fair to LQM, it is mounted, it has four sides and a roof and all the proper holes. However, locating four inches off the ground is not the proper way to attract our feathered friends. I've seen cats casing the joint with napkins around the throat; knife and fork in paw and ready to dine. I have also heard that life insurance premiums are triple if not impossible to get if a P. Martin establishes residence in LQM's back yard.

Well those are just a few of the unfinished projects that block my path. I think you can see that I have every right to be a bit reluctant about saving the few feet of yard I have left for future generations. But LQM is very clever and he got me where I live. Yes, I do here admit that I am a Christmas Junkie. I can pass designer jeans without so much as a glance but a new Hallmark ornament has me running to the checkout lane.

After weeks of discussion concerning the tower, translation of that would be screaming and yelling, LQM came up with something I couldn't resist. He told me that he would put Christmas lights all over the tower and make it look like a giant Christmas tree. He said we would have the best outside decorations in the neighborhood. I was hooked. The tower was put up.

Now that it is officially December I asked LQM how the lights were going up on the tower. With a great flourish he handed me a box gaily wrapped and ribboned for Christmas and told me to open it. As I pulled out the safety belt for tower climbing I had a mental giggle envisioning LQM going up the tower in a Santa hat. I threw the belt around his waist and immediately noticed that it missed about a foot of leather; there was no way it would go around his Santa belly.

LQM took his leave about that time with a HO HO HO and with a turn of his head he vanished. I looked down to the belt and saw an inscription. To Carolyn from Santa LQM Happy Climbing! I heard a clatter on the roof and hurried to the window. I saw a strange and most wonderous sight. A sleigh with a jolly old elf and eight tiny reindeer, WITH a mini di-pole between their antlers, leaving my roof. I heard him exclaim as he rose out of sight "A Merry Christmas to all and may Carolyn's tower light!"

Now how do you think LQM pulled that one off? Hmm, I wonder if a little old guy from way up north gets lonely in the off season and needs someone to talk to. Oh well, this time of year you better not pout, you better not cry and I guess you'd better not ask too many questions!

"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

Christmas 73 from KA9LMO

*Merry Christmas to all!*

